

AJR Information

Volume LIV No. 5

May 1999

£3 (to non-members)

Kristallnacht

prefigured

Kosovo

When in November 1938

Germany launched a war against a minority within its borders, no power actively objected. A sovereign state was thought entitled to act as it saw fit in its own territory. Besides, what could Britain or France do in the face of American isolationism?

Today, in the post-WWII and post-Holocaust era, perceptions have drastically changed. Not only do the dictates of our shared humanity override the legalistic logic-chopping about the sovereignty of gangster regimes, but America has become aware of its global responsibilities. In the UK the unholy Tony Benn-Alan Clark alliance of New Labour-bashing Left and Churchill-bashing Right evokes the ghost of Munich, but the public backs NATO action □

Reflections on Haider's recent victory in provincial Austrian elections

Reversed roles of sorcerer and apprentice

While Zhirinovsky has forsworn Jewbaiting, Le Pen feuds with Mégret, Farrakhan succumbs to cancer and Schönhuber is yesterday's man, Haider appears unstoppable. His recent election win in Carinthia set him on course for governorship of the province and gives substance to his ultimate dream of the Chancellorship.

What is it that makes the Austrian electorate, despite the country's 45-year-long unequivocal commitment to the West, so susceptible to the siren call of Neo-Nazi xenophobia? Part of the answer lies in the venomous intolerance ingrained in Austrian political culture. In the 1920s and 30s the two major parties, the Clericals and the Socialists faced each other with a hostility that engendered civil war; in that atmosphere the mere act of not attending church assumed political significance.

Another major factor was the Allied-manufactured myth – useful in psychological warfare – that Austria had been the first victim of German aggression. In consequence the country was spared the dismemberment and (short-term) loss of sovereignty imposed on postwar Germany. Nor were Austria's institutions, such as the judiciary, the schools and the press, comprehensively overhauled. This resulted in sickeningly lenient treatment of Nazi criminals by Austrian courts, ignorance of the country's horrific record among postwar generations, and the dominance of the xenophobic *Kronenzeitung* in the media sphere.

In the sixties the process of spreading a smoke-screen over the country's past went into a yet higher gear with the assumption of the Chancellorship by Bruno Kreisky. Kreisky's Jewishness not only conferred respectability on the ex-Nazis he appointed as ministers, but could be paraded before the world as a symbol of a profound national change of heart.

Whereas before the war Germany had been the sorcerer and Austria the apprentice, today the position is reversed. (One is tempted to say the jackboot is on the other foot.) And this despite the fact that there would appear to be more grounds for xenophobic alarm in the former than the latter. The

Bundesrepublik accommodates seven million resident foreigners among a total population of 80 million, i.e. nine percent. The corresponding figures for Austria are 300,000 foreigners among seven million, i.e. four percent!

For all that, no party has stormed into a German regional parliament under the slogan *Ausländer raus!*, whereas Haider's Freedom Party currently bestrides Carinthia and is gaining ground in other provinces. And who is this Jörg Haider, would-be Chancellor of Austria, a country supposedly locked into the European Union? He is the son of Nazi parents who acquired a formerly Jewish-owned landed estate. He has not only inherited their property, but also their 'values'. He has praised Hitler's employment policy and trivialises concentration camps by calling them 'penal institutions'. If he gains much further ground among the electorate Austria will become the pariah state of democratic Europe □

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES

will be held at the
Paul Balint AJR Day Centre
15 Cleve Road, NW6 3RL
at 3pm on

SUNDAY 20th JUNE 1999

AGENDA:

**Annual Report for 1998
Hon. Treasurer's Report
Discussion**

Election of Committee of Management

Guest Speaker:

Hella Pick

distinguished journalist and author

All questions for the Chair should be
submitted by 5th June to the Chief Executive at:
1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Froggnal, London NW3 6AL

Profile

Esther Brunstein

The ebullience, elegance and energy Esther Brunstein exhibits today help to conceal memories of childhood brutalities and traumas she suffered in Poland's Lodz Ghetto and at Auschwitz and Belsen.

Esther Zylberberg was born in 1928 into a happy close-knit family, part of a Jewish working-class intelligentsia. Her father was a foreman weaver in the city's booming textile industry and a leading figure in the Yiddish-speaking *Bund*, while her mother was a member of the Bund's women's section. The whole family were imbued with the Bund's Socialist ethic and Yiddish culture. Esther's Bundist school also instilled an appreciation of Yiddish literature, as well as Polish and even the English classics (in translation).

It took only seven days for the invading Germans to capture Lodz and in the ensuing chaos and fear, Jews were deprived of any civilized status. Esther was only eleven. Her eldest brother, David, fled to the Soviet zone of occupied Poland, while her father first went into hiding, then left town hoping that the family would follow. Neither was ever seen by their family again.

The Lodz Ghetto, into which Esther, her mother and brother were crammed with between 180-200,000 others, was shut off from the rest of the world on 1st May 1940, surrounded with barbed wire and armed German soldiers. Inevitably disease, hunger and brutality took their toll. But morale was maintained and people resisted in the only way open to them when faced with the deprivations and dangers. Esther attended a makeshift school, there were choirs, drama groups, Yiddish and Polish poetry readings, concerts, even political meetings were held. Deportations began in 1941.

Though malnourished, Esther worked in a carpet factory, kept going by a strong camaraderie. In January 1944 her brother Perec was taken for forced labour, then in the late summer the ghetto was liquidated, the remaining 60,000 survivors, including Esther and her mother, herded into cattle trucks for Auschwitz, their last journey together.

Liberation at Belsen on 15th April 1945 probably saved Esther who, delirious with typhoid, slowly regained her health.

The Swedish Red Cross offered her a home and rehabilitation in Sweden and after two years she joined her brother in London (one of 'The Boys') and, now



Esther Brunstein

aged 19, became a domestic servant for an elderly Jewish couple in Romford, Essex.

She learned English by listening to the radio, seeing films and reading familiar stories with a dictionary to hand. Through her brother's connection with the Yiddish Theatre at the Alexandra, Stoke Newington – and MP Fenner Brockway's intervention to obtain her a work permit – she became an actress and met her husband-to-be, Stanislaw, who designed the theatre's scenery. They married in 1949 and had two daughters. Later Esther performed with the Yiddish Theatre at the Grand Palais, working as a dental receptionist during the day.

When in 1992 she was asked to speak about her wartime experiences to her synagogue congregation, Esther did so with much reluctance for the subject, even then, was still virtually taboo. At a time when the National Front was gaining support, with the encouragement of the Anti Nazi League she felt impelled to speak out at universities, colleges and schools. In 1993 Vanessa Redgrave invited her to address a UNICEF meeting in Manchester and last year arranged for her to speak at the United Nations in New York. Esther continues a full programme of speaking engagements, remarkable for a woman who regards her years of adolescence as having been stolen.

□ Ronald Channing

The treasury of paintings left by her late husband Stanislaw Brunstein is being exhibited at Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre.

NEWTONS

Leading Hampstead Solicitors
22 Fitzjohns Avenue,
London NW3 5NB

- ★ All English legal work undertaken and German, Swiss & Austrian claims
- ★ German spoken
- ★ Home visits arranged
- ★ Associated offices in Tel Aviv, and Zurich

Tel: 0171 435 5351

Fax: 0171 435 8881

PARTNER

in long established English Solicitors (bi-lingual German) would be happy to assist clients with English, German and Austrian problems. Contact

Henry Ebner

Myers Ebner & Deane
103 Shepherds Bush Road
London W6 7LP
Telephone 0171 602 4631

**ALL LEGAL WORK
UNDERTAKEN**

AUSTRIAN and GERMAN
PENSIONSPROPERTY RESTITUTION
CLAIMS
EAST GERMANY- BERLIN

On instructions our office will assist to deal with your applications and pursue the matter with the authorities.

For further information and appointment please contact:

ICS CLAIMS
146-154 Kilburn High Road
London NW6 4JD

Tel: 0171-328 7251 (Ext. 107)
Fax: 0171-624 5002

Clio – a much-abused muse

The ancient Greeks had eight muses (with names like Terpsichore and Thalia) linked to various branches of the arts, as well as Clio, the muse of history. This set a dangerous precedent because, while the arts are products of the free-ranging imagination, history ought to be grounded in fact.

Ought to be, but isn't! AJP Taylor's short book on the Second World War omitted Stalin's order that all Russian PoWs be treated as deserters. Was this due to shortage of space? I suspect not – the left-leaning Taylor was probably reluctant to highlight the demoralisation of the Red Army resulting from Stalin's purge.

Wiesenthal, saint or charlatan?

A hero embroiled in controversy

Vienna-born distinguished British journalist and biographer of Simon Wiesenthal, Hella Pick, gripped the attention of AJR Luncheon Club members when recalling the work to which Wiesenthal had dedicated his life – bringing Holocaust perpetrators to justice.

The rubric of 'Nazi-hunter', though commonly applied, was inadequate for someone who had "confronted the international community with the great moral issues of our time", said Hella Pick. Though Wiesenthal had no truck with concepts of collective or national guilt, he was totally committed to the exposure of individual guilt and to ensuring that those involved in the perpetration of genocide were brought to justice.

Born in Galicia, during World War I Simon Wiesenthal sought refuge in Vienna with his mother and later studied architecture at Prague University. At the outbreak of war he was arrested and taken for forced labour in a succession of camps. On his liberation from Mauthausen Wiesenthal witnessed the Americans interrogating Nazis and decided to follow their example. Using his phenomenal memory, he drew up a long list of perpetrators, also recording the very few who had helped him. In Pick's view, "he could only justify his survival by seeking justice for the victims."

When the recently deceased Lord Beloff was appointed Gladstone Professor of Government at Oxford he had a stamp made with his title, which he carried around in his pocket together with an ink pad. This eccentricity of conduct went hand in hand with a totally skewed view of reality in his later years. Beloff compared the Westminster Parliament's vote for the Maastricht Treaty to the French National Assembly's endorsement of Pétain and subservience to Germany and likened Tony Blair's style of government to that of Hitler in 1933.

And so to Norman Stone, most high-profile British historian since Taylor. Stone commented on NATO action against Serbia thus: 'The bombing of Yugoslavia by the Americans is a huge mistake, with horrible implications for us all. To sum them up: Ukrainian peace-

keepers in Dumfries?... President Clinton's action is an extraordinary piece of irresponsibility... Do you want Slovakian peacekeepers in N Ireland?'

The subtext of Stone's statement is as follows:

(a) The dozen or so European democracies in NATO are all 'poodles' of the Americans (b) Peacekeepers are invariably drawn from the 'flakiest' states of Eastern Europe (c) Armed action against Milosevic infringes the right of a sovereign state to deal with its own citizens in any way it sees fit.

Such are the views of the erstwhile Regius Professor of History at Oxford. Small wonder Henry Ford is as well-known for the quality of his thought – eg 'History is bunk' – as he is for the quality of his cars.

□ Richard Grunberger



Hella Pick accepting a presentation from Henry Brook.

He was, above all, "an extraordinarily good communicator", who knew how to handle the media and involve others in his enterprises. From the inception of his 'documentation centre' he worked alone with very limited funding, but established a huge information-gathering network recording data that would otherwise have been lost. In the wake of the 1961 Eichmann trial, Wiesenthal settled in Vienna and, operating from exceedingly small offices, gained international recognition. Now in his 91st year, Wiesenthal is much honoured in Austria.

In consequence of a feud which dates back to World Jewish Congress chief Dr Nahum Goldmann, ignoring Wiesenthal's reports on the tracing of Eichmann, WJC

regards Wiesenthal as a charlatan. Similarly, the Los Angeles institute which bears his name does not represent his views, especially since they branded Kurt Waldheim as a war criminal while he was standing for the Austrian presidency.

Hella Pick remained convinced that Wiesenthal, who had made people throughout the world aware of the Holocaust, was an outstanding figure to whom a significant debt was owed.

□ Ronald Channing

Hella Pick is guest speaker at AJR's AGM on Sunday 20th June at 3pm.

AJR & the Wiener Library

invite members to a special joint lecture on

The Formation of a Refugee Community Identity, AJR Information 1946-1950

to be given by

Dr Anthony Grenville

on Sunday 9th May 1999 at 3pm

followed by tea

at the Gustave Tuck Theatre,
University College London,
Gower Street, WCI

Reservations incl. tea at £5
(£3 members) with the Wiener Library,
4 Devonshire Street, London W1N 2BH
Tel: 0171 636 7247

Reviews

Child victim into academic

Ruth Klüger, *WEITER LEBEN; EINE JUGEND*.
Wallstein Verlag, Göttingen, 1992.

Death, not sex, was the secret that the adults kept whispering about. Therefore, you wanted to know more about it! I pretended that I could not sleep, requested that I might lie on the sofa in the living room (which we actually called 'salon'). Of course, I did not go to sleep, but kept my head under the blanket and hoped to pick up something about the terrible news being discussed at the table. Sometimes it concerned unknown people, sometimes members of the family, always Jews."

This is how Klüger's book starts. We learn about a six-year-old Jewish girl's daily adventures in Vienna after the Anschluss, how the Jews' rights are gradually eroded and, later, how she slips into a cinema although that was already *verboten*. Her father, a physician, may only treat Jewish patients. There is talk among the adults about escaping abroad and the obstacle placed in their path by the authorities. Her father manages to flee to France. She stays behind with her mother who tries to keep up appearances. The relationship between mother and daughter is a difficult one, and not only because of the absence of her father.

In 1942 mother and daughter are deported to Theresienstadt. Life there, shared with a number of girls of the same age, is described in detail. The mother works in the kitchen and sometimes manages to bring her extra food. Later they are transported to Auschwitz and then to Christianstadt. During a forced march six of them manage to escape. Their adventures as escaped Jews amongst a German population which is waiting for the Red Army to arrive, makes hair-raising reading, as do many earlier parts. Mother and daughter end up as DPs in the small Bavarian provincial town of Straubing.

Klüger manages to get some sort of secondary education and eventually emigrates to the United States. The inability of people, both there and in Europe, to show only the slightest understanding of what she experienced as a child, is a theme to which the author returns time

and again.

Finally, having become an academic, she is sent by her university to Göttingen, where she is in charge of the Californian study centre. Her experiences there, some forty years after the end of the war, are equally interesting.

Klüger has dedicated this book "To my Göttinger friends – a German book". And a German book it is: of high literary quality, but it does not try to come to terms with human problems, created by inhumans.

□ Henri Obstfeld

Herzl's launch pad

Heiko Haumann, *JUDEN IN BASEL UND UMGEBUNG. Zur Geschichte einer Minderheit*. Schwabe Verlag, Basel, 1999, DM 24.

As the city which hosted not only the first Zionist Congress but also the last before the establishment of the State of Israel, Basel can justly lay claim to a special relationship with the Jewish people and its national aspirations. But Switzerland's second city has also been the scene of some of the worst antisemitic excesses perpetrated during the Middle Ages and in later years, as well as having shown a somewhat ambivalent attitude to refugees from Nazi oppression desperately seeking safety and shelter in the 1930s and 40s. These contrasting aspects of the city's millennial history are now recalled and recorded in exemplary fashion in a book published by the Cantonal authorities in co-operation with the History Department of the city's university.

Intended primarily as a textbook for schools, but clearly of interest to readers of all ages and religious and national affiliations, this slim volume traces the "history of a minority" – the Jews of Basel and the surrounding region – from its beginning in the 13th century to the present day. Murdered in the 14th century, banned from residence within the city walls for 400 years, returning at the beginning of the 19th century, the Jews of Basel have found relative peace and full civic rights only since the last quarter of the past century. They now constitute a vibrant community, but antisemitic incidents have not been totally eliminated and aliyah and intermarriage tend to re-

duce the community's size.

The book is excellently written and presented. Its publication is to be warmly welcomed because it strengthens our hope that, in future, "antisemitism, racism and xenophobia will be recognised in their very early stages and therefore overcome".

□ David Maier

Left luggage

Kenneth Ambrose, *THE SUITCASE IN THE GARAGE*.

The author of this work (obtainable from his private address, 3 Priory Park, Blackheath, London SE3 9UY. Tel: 0181 852 0262) stresses that it is not an autobiography. It is an extensive collection of letters, photographs and documents. These are translated and annotated by the author for those descendants unable to read German, particularly in Gothic script. So this is, in its way, an *in memoriam* which Ambrose describes as a labour of love.

The book is concerned, in the main, with the Abrahamsohn and Cronbach families. They came from Pomerania and West Prussia, and after the First World War they settled in Stettin. The author's father, who became a solicitor, had served in the First World War and was decorated.

Kurt (now Kenneth) attended Stettin Gymnasium until 1936, when his parents sent him to an English Public School, King's College, Taunton. As long as it was possible, he spent his holidays with his parents in Germany. When the European catastrophe threatened, they, too, came to England.

In its own way this contains the story of European Jewry – both of those who escaped to safety and those who perished in the Holocaust. Kenneth Ambrose was on the 'Dunera', the ship that transported refugees to Australian internment. Readers may remember that he has written about his experiences on this transport and in Australia. Subsequently he served in the RAF.

His title was inspired by the fact that all the material that went into this *in memoriam* lay undiscovered in a suitcase in his garage for years.

□ John Rossall

Double-headed eagle

I am deeply ambivalent about the return of Jews to Central Europe. On the one hand I find the sight of large *Judenreine* blanks on the continental map deeply depressing. On the other, the readiness of some German and Austrian Jews to return to their old habitat sticks in the craw. Choosing to live among people who have kicked you out – and that wasn't their worst misdeed – seems a form of self-abasement.

In the case of Austria this abasement was compounded when some prominent returnees – Bruno Kreisky, the critic Hans Weigl, the (non-resident) poet Erich Fried – 'contracted out' of worldwide Jewish solidarity, above all solidarity with Israel.

Even now surviving postwar returnees stress their remoteness from Jewish concerns. In an eve-of-retirement interview the actor Otto Taussig said: 'I see myself as a Viennese and not a Jew', while the poet Arthur West publishes slim volumes suffused with anti-Zionism.

Of course, Austrian postwar returnees numbered only a tiny fraction of the post-Anschluss exodus. Further down the Danube an interesting contrast emerged. After liberation fully half of all surviving Hungarian Jews elected to remain in the country. In consequence Budapest functioned as *the* Jewish centre in the Soviet Bloc – with synagogues, a rabbinical seminary, a museum, etc.

Now, a decade after the Bloc's collapse, the Hungarian economy is totally reformed and a free market in housing exists. Among foreigners buying up apartments in Budapest are quite a few Israelis. Their preferred location is the Seventh District, the prewar Jewish quarter where Herzl – and Koestler – grew up. This Israeli preference has prompted estate agents to state 'apartment overlooks Dohany Street synagogue' in their advertising (Dohany Street synagogue, incidentally, is the largest in Europe).

I am uncertain as to whether the new owners of these apartments are of Hungarian descent or simply Israelis with a yearning for café society – but I find this reclamation of the Seventh District rather cheering.

For all that, I fear that Hungarian Jewry will never relive its glory days, when it spawned a crop of scientists (von Neumann, Gabor, Teller) movie makers (Korda, Cukor) playwrights (Molnar, Lajos Biro), plus economists and musicians too numerous to mention. □ RG

Our story

The Gesellschaft für Exilforschung, the leading German academic society for scholars researching on exiles from the German-speaking lands, held its annual conference at Senate House, University of London, from 19-21 March. The conference was jointly organised by the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies, with financial support from the Leo Baeck Institute. The programme contained fifteen papers dealing with many and varied aspects of exile in Britain, as well as a reading by Eva Fox-Gal, daughter of the noted musicologist, Hans Gal, from her father's internment diary.

In the evenings, the participants, about eighty in number, were invited to receptions at the Wiener Library and the Austrian Cultural Institute; at the latter an exhibition of photographs and documents relating to the wartime Austrian Centre was opened. The high point of the conference was a panel discussion in which the participants were Richard Grunberger, Bea Green (Reunion of Kindertransports), Hans Seelig (Club 43) and Katherine Klinger (Second Generation Trust).

The AJR was further highlighted in a paper by Anthony Grenville on the early issues of the *AJR Information*. It is gratifying that the exiles from Hitler in Britain are at last receiving the interest from scholars that their historical experiences merit. That a German academic society should hold a major and highly successful conference in London will put the refugee community here even more firmly in the academic limelight. □ AG

Dr Anthony Grenville will be talking on 'The Formation of a Refugee Community Identity 1946-1950', on Sunday 9th May at University College London at 3pm.

Fifty-three years young

The Leo Baeck (London) Women's Lodge, which only three years ago celebrated its golden jubilee, can point to a proud record of active communal service, which includes the foundation of the Clara Nehab Residential Home.

Today, with more than 200 members, the Lodge runs a successful Day Centre

and continues to provide many other beneficial services, each overseen by a Lodge committee. These include arranging outings and holidays for needy children, helping members in good and bad times, and supporting a variety of good causes in the UK and Israel. The Lodge also has a reading circle, runs Bridge afternoons, and organises group visits to concerts, plays and places of interest, usually in co-operation with the Men's Lodge.

Both lodges meet on Wednesdays in Swiss Cottage to hear guest lecturers, hold debates, listen to recitals and enjoy social functions, something to suit all tastes and interests. In our recent programme, a Purim concert was followed by lectures on Rembrandt and the Jews, the City of London, and a lively discussion on mothers, grandmothers and the younger generation!

This friendly group is always happy to welcome anyone interested in enriching the quality of their own lives by joining any of our activities. Introductory membership this year is just a nominal £10, so do call me on 0181 455 4835 for details of our programme.

□ Kitty Freund, President

Annely Juda Fine Art

23 Dering Street (off New Bond Street)
Tel: 0171-629 7578 Fax: 0171-491 2139

CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE



JACKMAN
SILVERMAN

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

26 Conduit Street, London W1R 9TA
Telephone: 0171 409 0771 Fax: 0171 493 8017

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 Belsize Square, London N.W.3

Our communal hall is available for cultural and social functions.

Tel: 0171-794 3949



Letters to the Editor

THE OFFICERS' PLOT AND THE SHOAH

Sir – If successful, the plotters would have aimed at immediate contact for an armistice with the Western Allies already firmly established in France. This necessarily would have entailed early cessation of exterminations. Once the first active steps had been taken the plotters had no more freedom of choice than the Jews in the camps at the time: most of them would die after failure, survive after success. Available sources all point to about, or more than, one million Jews murdered in the time between the plot on 20 July 1944 and the beginning of liberation of the main camps in late January 1945.

Non-Jewish Germans may have political reasons for considering that the failure was fortunate, even though continuation of war entailed very heavy losses of non-Jewish lives. For the Jews the failure resulted in an additional unmitigated catastrophe, whichever way one looks at it. Since success of the plot would have saved so many Jewish lives, one can but ask what purpose may be served by assessing frequencies of anti-semitic or other views amongst individual plotters. Even after success these views could not have influenced any outcome dictated by the Allies.

London SE21

ML Meyer

YAD VASHEM'S WRONG CRITERIA

Sir – The reason for the paucity of trees commemorating German 'Righteous Gentiles' in Yad Vashem is due to the institution's restrictive attitude.

In 1943 there were 7,000 mixed couples in Berlin. The gentile partners had been bullied since 1933 to make them divorce their spouses. On February 27, 2,000 Jewish husbands were arrested to be deported to Auschwitz. Their gentile wives demonstrated for a week outside the Rosenstrasse prison in defiance of SS machine guns. Finally Goebbels decided to release the husbands, who all survived the war. The 5,000 gentile husbands were rounded up a year later and put into forced labour camps. There they were tortured to force them to divorce. They

refused. My step-father was one of them and thanks to him my mother survived. Yad Vashem refused to recognise him as a 'Righteous Gentile' because they don't admit mixed marriages.

Ilford, Essex

Peter Prager

REMEMBERING 30 JANUARY 1933

Sir – Yes, there was disappointment that Communist participants in many recent street fights with the Nazis, had given up quietly.

We lived near the Rundfunkturm, in the Westend of Berlin. On a wall near us the graffito "Wo sind die Kommunisten?" appeared, to which next day a cynical, but realistic, wit scrawled the answer: "In der SA". That, except for the true idealists who were murdered sooner or later, had been their destination.

Ipswich, Suffolk

Frank Bright

ANTI-MOSLEM MOSCOW

Sir – It is difficult to decide whether it was due to Western skill or Russian stupidity that Russia has cast herself into a dangerous anti-Muslim role on the issue of Kosovo and thus negated her role as an impartial negotiator.

Russia might regret the suffering of the Albanian Moslems in words, but she clearly condones them in deeds. Any discerning Moslem must surely understand who his reliable friends are and why.

Hopefully there will be some political benefit to the West from this serious lapse of Russian policy and perhaps Israel might gain a little, also.

Shrewsbury

Manfred Landau

RESONANT NAMES: TWO LESSINGS

Sir – (a) Gotthold Ephraim Lessing was apparently asked by a Christian clergyman: "An Gott den Vater glaubst Du schon, warum nicht auch an seinen Sohn?" He answered: "Wie kann dem Sohn Kredit ich geben, der Vater wird ja ewig leben."

(b) In the 1920s our family lived on the second floor of the villa Edelweiss in Marienbad. Some years later Prof. Theodor Lessing was murdered on that same

floor. The assassins put a ladder against the back of the house and shot him through the window. The house now has a plaque recalling the incident.

Croydon

Dr KH Fantes

SECRET JEW

Sir – Further to Ronald Channing's article on Leopold Amery (April issue), for a period pre- and during the war, Amery was a director of Marks & Spencer. He and a number of other sympathetic non-Jews were appointed to the Board by Simon Marks – the rest of the directors being almost exclusively Marks, Sieff, Sacher family at the time – to look after the company in case of a German invasion.

His involvement is documented in *Simon Marks – Retail Revolutionary* by Paul Bookbinder and myself. A search of the company archive does not show whether Simon Marks knew Amery's 'secret'. Leo Amery obviously felt his Jewishness despite being a *marrano*.

Bushey Heath, Herts

Barry Hyman

IT'S NOT CRICKET!

Sir – The February Viewpoint 'Ashes to Ashes' made it clear that one has to be 100% British (or British Commonwealth) to write an article on a peculiarly British game.

Cricket remains one of the main reasons why there has never been more than one revolution in Britain. When the village cricket team included the squire, blacksmith, farm-hand, teacher and shopkeeper, who would dream of revolting against his team mate? The game has also held the Commonwealth together. It is only proper that the son should eventually be better than the father who taught him.

Like soccer, we now have overseas players in most of our county teams.

To speak ill of cricket must be a close second to speaking ill of the Queen. However, I remember taking a refugee along to a cricket match; the questions that resulted showed how illogical it is to any one not brought up to it.

No other game compares.

London NW11

John M David

Sir – Armchair critics please note: Kosovo, NATO bombing error. Would you have bombed the crematoria?

London NW11

Lionel Simmonds
Former RAF bomb aimer

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - MAY 1999

- Tue 4 **Experience of Exile in Autobiographical Texts:** Andrea Capovilla (Oxford). Sussex University, 5.15pm
- Wed 5 **Western Society & Genocide at the Millenium:** Dr Mark Levene (Warwick University). Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £3
- Wed 5 **Netanyahu, Israel & the Middle East Peace Process:** Dr Neill Lochery. Institute of Jewish Studies, UCL, Gustave Tuck Theatre, 6.30pm
- Thur 6 **Lunchtime Recital:** Haydn Dickenson, piano, plays Mendelssohn & Moscheles. Sternberg Centre, 1.15pm, £2
- Sun 9 **Formation of a Refugee Community Identity, AJR Information 1946-1950:** Dr Anthony Grenville, University College London, 3pm, £5 (£3 cons). (Bookings with Administrative Secretary, Wiener Library)
- Mon 10 **Annual General Meeting Club 43,** 8pm
- Tue 11 **Imperial War Museum Archives:** Stephen Walton, Sussex University, 5.15pm
- Tue 11 **Jewish Insights on Ageing:** Lord Jakobovits. Spiro Ark, at Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4, 8pm, £6
- Wed 12 **The Jew in English Literature:** Dr Bryan Chettye (London University). Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £3
- Thur 13 **Contribution of Refugees to British Culture & Science:** Monica Lowenberg, Sussex University. South London AJR, Lily Montagu Hall
- Mon 17 **Deutsche Schule (Richmond) - Ein Erich Kästner Abend, 1889-1999:** (IN GERMAN). Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 18 **New Possibilities for Study & Research in Germany:** Dr Sebastian Fohrbeck. Sussex University, 5.15pm
- Tue 18 **Daniel Libeskind's Berlin Jewish Museum:** Prof James E Young (Mass). Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £3
- Thur 20 **Lunchtime Recital:** Naomi Hyamson, mezzo-soprano, & Ian Priestley, tenor, perform Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*. Sternberg Centre, 1.15-2.30pm, £2
- Mon 24 **John Maynard Keynes & his student the UN economist, Sir Hans Singer:** Harry Leyrer, Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 25 **Jews in the Weimar Republic, a Minority in a Democracy:** Prof Peter Pulzer (Oxford). Sussex University Meeting House, 5.15pm
- Tue 25 **Fanny Holtzmann & 1947 UN Vote:** Martin Birken, Spiro Ark, at Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4, 7.30pm, £3
- Wed 26 **Photography & the Holocaust:** Frank Dabba Smith, Leo Baeck College, Sternberg Centre, Finchley, 8pm, £5 (£3 cons)

June

- Tue 1 **Walter Benjamin's Sceptical Prayers:** Dr Margarete Kohlenbach (Sussex), Sussex University, 5.15pm

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

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

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

University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies. David Groiser Tel/Fax: 01273 877 169

Institute of Jewish Studies. Lectures: University College, Gower Street, WC1. Tel: 0171 380 7171

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

Spiro Ark, Middlesex University, The Burroughs, London NW4 4HE. Tel: 0181 201 7172

Leo Baeck College, Sternberg Centre for Judaism, 80 East End Road, London N3 2SY. Tel: 0181 349 4525

South London AJR. Ken Ambrose 0181 852 0262

Election of Committee of Management

The following members will be proposed for election or re-election to the Committee at the AGM on Sunday 20th June 1999

Mr AC Kaufman, Chairman
Mr WD Rothenberg, Vice-Chairman & Hon Treasurer
Mrs ES Angel, Secretary
Mr P Dannenberg, Trustee*
Mr CW Dunston, Trustee
Mr M Durst, Trustee
Mrs J Field
Mrs D Franklin*
Mrs GR Glassman*

*Committee members retiring by rotation and being proposed for re-election.

Anyone wishing to propose any other member for election as Hon Officer, Trustee, or Committee member must submit to AJR's Chief Executive, such a proposal signed by ten members qualified to vote at the meeting and with the signed agreement of the person being proposed **no later than Thursday 13th May 1999**

**BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE**

51 BELSIZE SQUARE, NW3

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

Further details can be obtained from our synagogue secretary

Telephone 0171-794 3949

Minister: Rabbi Rodney J. Mariner
Cantor: Rev Lawrence H. Fine
Regular services: Friday evenings at 6.45 pm,
Saturday mornings at 10 am
Religion school: Sundays at 10 am to 1 pm
Space donated by Pafra Limited

Annual Report 1998

Membership

Although sadly 125 members died and 120 allowed their membership to lapse, 204 new members joined in the course of the year giving a total of 3,369 members as at the end of 1998. Members who joined the Association consisted of those who had only just heard of AJR's existence, referrals from other agencies to Social Services and those who sought our help and advice with pensions and restitution matters, including the funds distributed by the British Government.

The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

As always, the various activities and facilities offered were designed to embrace the needs of our members. The Luncheon Club continued to be a successful monthly part of the Day Centre's calendar with a carefully chosen programme, an excellent buffet lunch, followed by a stimulating speaker and discussion. The bi-annual summer outings to the coast took place at Westcliff and at Hove in addition to a return visit to the Normandie Hotel in Bournemouth by popular request.

The July Open Day was once again enjoyed by one and all and managed to raise, despite the inclement weather, just over £1,000. This sum was used towards the purchase of a new freezer. The Bridge Evening named in the memory of the late Madeleine Brook was a great success and later on in the year the Day Centre welcomed the WIZO choir which proved to be a most enjoyable afternoon with a scrumptious tea.

The regular services of a visiting chiropodist and optician continued to be in demand together with the ever popular 'tuck shop' and clothes sales. Guests from South London were entertained during the course of the year and were most interested to learn of our work. The many attending the Tea Dance at Chanukah described it as the best ever, enjoying the foxtrot with AJR's Chief Executive, Michael Radbil.

Listening to suggestions from members, as we always do, we introduced in the Autumn a weekly Kard & Games Klub with a volunteer offering her services to assist members to learn bridge. The buffet lunch and the cards and games themselves were enjoyed by all who attended. All of these activities are managed by Sylvia Matus together with her team of full and part-time staff with our faithful band of volunteers.

Catering

Under the direction of Susie Kaufman, Head Chef Jeff Hayward, together with Chef Ya'acov Azulay and their staff, continued to prepare meals for the Day Centre, take-away meals, meals-on-wheels and for special events throughout the year. Throughout the year 24,126 meals were prepared. This included a splendid party in the summer for our volunteers to introduce them to our new Chief Executive, Michael Radbil. This was attended by many communal leaders all of whom were most impressed by the activities at the Day Centre. A special lunch was

also held to mark the 50th Birthday of the State of Israel and a tea was held for the residents of Cleve Road to meet Michael Radbil. The Seder forms an important part of these activities and each year continues to be over-subscribed.

The meals-on-wheels are increasing in number, indicative of the changing needs of our members and the high standards of the meals themselves. A new assistant, Sandra Lessman, joined the Meals-on-Wheels Team towards the end of the year. Camden Health inspected the catering facilities and once again gave us a clean bill of health, being most impressed with all they saw.

Transport

More volunteer drivers are urgently needed to assist Renée Lee in providing transport to and from the Day Centre.

Volunteers

AJR's Volunteers Co-ordinator Debbie Picker left her post to move to Bristol and was replaced by Amanda Clark. The Befrienders' Support Group meetings continued to take place and proved to be a valuable way of sharing problems and finding solutions. Training sessions also took place for volunteers on how to combat stress, compensation issues and basic counselling skills, all being well attended and well received by the participants.

Social events for volunteers included the Buffet Supper held at the Day Centre to meet Michael Radbil, a most successful summer's evening. Irene White organised a Tea Party for our visually impaired members, specially catered for them by the Day Centre team. Over 30 new volunteers were recruited and in total 160 volunteers continue to enable us to carry on our vital work within the community. We thank all of them for their invaluable help and dedication.

Social Services

Under the leadership of Marcia Goodman, the Department continued to provide help to just under 400 of our members during the year. The team offer emotional and financial support, pensions advice, help in funding, meals-on-wheels, Day Centre attendance, hospital visiting and assistance with many other matters.

In addition, Social Services this year collated all the applications received for the British and Swiss Humanitarian Funds. About 1,000 such applications were received from every corner of the British Isles. Hundreds of enquiries arising from those forms were dealt with and the AJR prepared a database for the Board of Deputies of British Jews who distributed the funds on behalf of the British Government. AJR has now taken over responsibility for 80 clients in the UK previously under the care of WJR. A new Social Worker was appointed to visit and assess these new members and absorb them into our system. This has been diligently undertaken and we

have now completed this complex and demanding task.

Pensions and Compensation

The Holocaust related Ill-Health Pension Scheme was started as a joint venture by the AJR, Jewish Care and World Jewish Relief. It is based at the AJR office where Hilde Ambrose gives her services as a volunteer, assisting a German Lawyer in Munich. 38 clients were seen in the office, some two or three times. Initially each client is interviewed in depth to enable a workable brief to be sent to Germany. Many interviews involve recollection of painful experiences from the past and require great sensitivity. The process also involves collecting medical evidence from GPs and consultants, briefing claimants before medical examinations by doctors appointed by the German authorities and liaising with the German Embassy.

Regrettably, although time is of the essence, progress has been very slow. After much hard work, the first 4 awards have been granted. 20 people have been refused, 2 have sadly died, 4 have withdrawn and 8 cases are still being considered. Unfortunately only people having made a claim in the 50s and 60s can ask to have their case looked at. The German Government under BEG law (*State Compensation Law - Bundesentschädigungsgesetz*), although recognising post-traumatic stress disorder, denies justice to the many people whose symptoms only manifested themselves at a much later stage in their lives.

Sheltered Accommodation

Applications for sheltered flats at Otto Schiff House, Hampstead and Eleanor Rathbone House, Highgate, previously handled by AJR on behalf of the Otto Schiff Housing Association, were taken over by the OSHA Social Services Department. Katia Gould continues to be available to members at the AJR office for general advice on sheltered housing questions. She also continues to deal with the waiting list for the eight flats which are part of the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre complex at 15 Cleve Road.

Towards the end of the year OSHA announced their long term plan eventually to dispose of Eleanor Rathbone House, which is part-owned by AJR, with a view to re-providing these facilities in a more suitable geographical area.

Welfare Benefits

As part of the work of the Social Services Department, specialist Welfare Rights advice was given by Agi Alexander to our members and assistance given with cases to the Social Workers. Advice may be on rights within the UK Social Services system, pensions, or restitution matters in connection with foreign legislation.

Help may range from assisting members to fill in forms, writing letters, making applications for benefits to arranging wills.

Drop-in surgeries are held twice a week, once at the Day Centre and once at the Head

Office. Members can attend without appointment. These surgeries are well attended and the help given covers many varied subjects. The most usual queries are on Attendance Allowance applications, Council Tax and on the numerous grants and compensations from Switzerland, Germany, Austria and the UK which became available during the year, or are still in the pipeline and will be available later. The Social Services Department made every effort to keep the members informed of the availability of such grants through articles in *AJR Information*, by telephone and by giving talks to a number of refugee groups.

Self Aid

There was an ever increasing need amongst our members for financial help under the 'Self Aid' provision. We now have 172 members to whom we pay a regular monthly sum, a charitable disregard which does not affect their state benefits. Each applicant is carefully and sensitively assessed by our Social Work team. The social worker then prepares a report for the Trustees to enable them to make the final decision. In addition to the regular payments, we receive many requests for one-off payments to help with a variety of unexpected expenses. This fund and the concurrent social work support, helps to improve the quality of life for our members who struggle to survive on very low incomes.

The annual concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall was our 50th Anniversary Concert in aid of Self Aid featuring the Carl Rosa Opera's production of *Die Fledermaus*. The afternoon raised some £5,000 for Self Aid and was considered to be a social success by the many who attended.

AJR Information

As has long been our practice, the journal engaged in an intensive dialogue with the readership so that, more often than not, letters to the Editor took up two full pages per issue. Proof of the fact that we are read beyond the confines of the AJR membership was the receipt of two letters from Professor Ernst Gombrich, the internationally known art historian, who strongly disagreed with opinions expressed by Richard Grunberger, the Editor, whose editorship and articles continued to receive accolades from many readers.

Other issues debated at length in the correspondence columns included the attitude of the participants in the 1944 Officers' Plot towards the Shoah and the appropriateness or otherwise of retaining the 'R' (for refugees) in our title. On other pages we have discussed the problems of the Second Generation – one member of which, Dr Anthony Grenville, has continued to contribute valuable articles on such literary 'greats' as Carl Sternheim and Bertolt Brecht. Another of our main functions has been to keep readers informed of developments in the ever-topical sphere of restitution payments.

AJR Information's Deputy Editor, Ronald Channing, has increased the breadth of the journal's reportage to encompass activities in the wider Jewish community, including lectures, current news items, advice from our own 'House Doctor', Holocaust memorial-

isation and a 'Viewpoint' column which takes a wry look at matters both serious and less so.

AJR Outside North West London

Myrna Glass joined us on a part-time basis in order to support and develop this important area of our work. The AJR has nine local groups in different parts of the country, all with interesting cultural and social programmes throughout the year. The groups are in Manchester, South London, Pinner, Leeds, West Midlands, Surrey, Cambridge and, most recently, Wessex (Bournemouth) and the East Midlands (Nottingham). Interest in having some form of social group has also been expressed to us by members living in the Edinburgh and Bristol areas and so we are looking at the viability of setting up new groups in that part of the country together with Cardiff, Newcastle, Glasgow and Brighton.

OSHA

AJR continued to work closely with the Otto Schiff Housing Association to serve our many members who are residents of the OSHA Homes. Indeed, members from the Homes continued to come to the Day Centre on a regular basis. Talks have been taking place throughout the year to look at various possibilities of how the two respective organisations can work together for the good of our members.

Events

Over 100 people attended what has now become a firm fixture in our calendar, the visit to Beth Shalom in Nottingham. All those present thought it to be a very special occasion due to the vision of the Smith family in establishing such a centre in the first place and, indeed, also due to their warm hospitality on the day of our visit itself.

Staff and Volunteers

In June of 1998 Michael Radbil joined the Association as its Chief Executive. At the year's end AJR employed 30 staff (full and part time); their work augmented by the essential services of our loyal volunteers.

The Honorary Officers, Management Committee and members acknowledge the dedication and work of both staff and volunteers for the good of the community we serve.

The Management Committee

The eleven elected members of this Committee continued to meet at regular intervals providing support and guidance to the Chief Executive.

The Year in Retrospect

In all our activities in the course of the year the needs of our members were always paramount. Staff and volunteers continued to carry out their work with great dedication, caring at all times for those in their charge. Our structure enables us to be truly 'hands-on', addressing the changing needs of our members and at the same time looking forward to meeting the needs of subsequent generations.

As far as the future is concerned, in the in-

terests of our members, we intend to remain a non-bureaucratic 'personal' organisation. In so doing it is clear that there remains much to be done, working for the good of our community together with other organizations. Indeed we have had to undertake extensive lobbying and campaigning on behalf of our members to expedite the distribution of various funds that become available. The AJR is a key player in a consortium of representative bodies who meet regularly with the Board of Deputies in order collectively to apply pressure on various governments.

In all that we do for our members we recognize that, at all times, we must be their voice, their helping hand and, above all, their friend.

Michael Radbil
Chief Executive

Andrew Kaufman
Chairman

Finance Report

AJR and AJR Charitable Trust

The work of the AJR itself has continued on a stable basis and 1998 showed a similar level of legacies to that received in 1997 so that overall the AJR itself made a small surplus in the year.

The really significant change in the Trust's financial affairs has been an effective doubling in the level of individual aid grants to welfare beneficiaries through Self Aid. The rate of grants increased steadily throughout the year as we took on the task of looking after nearly 80 individuals who previously had been supported through World Jewish Relief. We are receiving a financial contribution from WJR for a short period of time but we have found it necessary to increase the level of support for a number of these individuals to bring them into line with what we have been doing for welfare beneficiaries previously assisted through Self Aid.

The Charitable Trust has made substantial loans to OSHA to assist them with rebuilding Osmond House and we anticipate further significant expenditure in our work with OSHA. We received an exceptional level of legacies in the year but our commitments, particularly on the welfare side and in giving home support, are increasing very fast. The next few years will be a heavy financial burden for us.

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

Support for the Day Centre continues to be a significant cost, but worthy of our continuing support. The slight decline in numbers attending is outweighed by the increase in the number of meals-on-wheels supplied for the less mobile from our kitchens.

AJR – Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31st December 1998

Income:	1998	1997
Membership/Donations and Legacies	208,278	203,899
Grant from Self Aid		5,000
	<u>208,278</u>	<u>208,899</u>

continued overleaf

AJR Reports

Less:

Overhead Expenses		
Salary Costs	85,935	77,500
AJR Information	31,432	35,961
Administration/		
Depreciation	52,048	36,613
	<u>169,415</u>	<u>150,074</u>

Surplus:	<u>38,863</u>	<u>58,825</u>
-----------------	---------------	---------------

Summary of Balance Sheet at 31st December 1998

	1998	1997
Fixed Assets		
(less depreciation)	7,403	14,472
Current Assets	228,526	193,828
Less: Current Liabilities	(27,241)	(38,475)
	<u>208,688</u>	<u>169,825</u>

Represented by:

General Fund	169,825	111,000
Net surplus for year	38,863	58,825
	<u>208,688</u>	<u>169,825</u>

David Rothenberg, Hon. Treasurer 22 April 1999

AJR CHARITABLE TRUST PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

Summary figure for the year ended 31st December 1998

	1998	1997
Income:		
Takings - Day Centre and meals-on-wheels	80,360	83,900
Donations received	1,708	3,455
	<u>82,068</u>	<u>87,355</u>

Less outgoings:

Premises expenditure (net)	1,940	1,826
Salaries	114,147	91,500
Catering costs	186,651	167,867
Sundry expenses	61,266	60,636
	<u>364,004</u>	<u>321,829</u>

Deficit Funded from Charitable Trust

	<u>281,936</u>	<u>234,474</u>
--	----------------	----------------

AJR CHARITABLE TRUST - Summary Income and Expenditure Accounts (based on final draft figures)

Year ended 31st December 1998

	1998	1997
Income:		
Covenants/donations**	111,179	53,527
Investment income (including portfolio gains)	375,793	418,614
Sheltered housing	33,622	30,540
	<u>520,594</u>	<u>502,681</u>
Legacies	418,324	202,332
	<u>938,918</u>	<u>705,013</u>

Less outgoings:

Day Centre	281,936	234,474
Self Aid	155,409	80,000
Other organisations	18,900	23,588
Administration/		
Depreciation	316,242	277,272
	<u>£772,487</u>	<u>£615,334</u>

** For 1998 includes contribution from World Jewish Relief towards welfare payments

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

South London AJR

James Taylor of the Imperial War Museum's Holocaust Exhibition Project returned to SLAJR to update members on the progress of the exhibition which is due to open next year.

James described in detail his recent visits to concentration camp sites, including Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Mauthausen and Sachsenhausen, as well as the Lodz Ghetto, Krakow and Schindler's factory, in a continued search for display materials. He emphasized that there had to be absolute certainty that all exhibits were entirely genuine and expressed his appreciation to members who had donated much valued documents, photographs and objects to the museum.

□ Ruth Leggett

SLAJR's next meeting is on 13th May, at 2pm, in the Liberal Synagogue, Streatham. Monica Löwenberg of Sussex University will be speaking on 'Education and the Contribution of German-Jewish Refugees to British Society'.

Northern Group

Michael Smith, author of the best-selling *Foley, the Spy Who Saved 10,000 Jews*, de-

and his own safety, issued visas to thousands of people desperately attempting to escape the horrors of Nazi Germany.

Though a secret agent of MI6, Frank Foley was not entitled to diplomatic immunity, but used his cover as an official in the British Passport Control Office in Berlin to save many of our co-religionists. A devout Catholic, he despised Nazism, calling it the work of the devil. But for Michael Smith's discoveries whilst researching intelligence operations at that time, Foley's activities might have remained unknown. Long-overdue recognition as someone 'Righteous among the nations' has now been granted at Yad Vashem in Israel. Michael Smith's book deserves pride of place on any former refugee's bookshelf.

□ Werner Lachs

Leeds HSFA

Fabian Hamilton, MP for Leeds North-East, described the long-history of the Jews of Salonika, in Greece, from where his own family had originated. During the Nazi occupation in World War II, Salonika's Jewish community was deported to the death camps and almost totally destroyed. A number of members contributed their own associations with Salonika's pre-war community.

Mr Hamilton also reported on the experiences of a group of Labour Friends of Israel Parliamentarians which he recently had led to Israel and gave his evaluations of the peace process and the country's general election. AJR's Outreach Worker, Myrna Glass, spoke of the support and encouragement the Association was pleased to be giving to groups of former refugees like Leeds HSFA.

□ Heinz Skyte

West Midlands AJR

Bookings are being taken for a coach outing to Sudeley Castle in the Cotswolds on Sunday 23rd May, £12.50 (£13.50 non-members) excluding lunch. Please reply to Edgar Glaser or telephone 0121 777 6537 for details.

Pinner AJR

At the group's next meeting, on Thursday 6th May, 2pm, at Pinner Synagogue, Cecil Park, Neamah Serota will recall her 'Nostalgic memories of my years in the Land Army'.



Foley beneficiary Werner Lachs, contemplating Naomi Blake's memorial sculpture 'Abandoned' at Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre.

scribed to members the humanitarian acts of a man who, in total disregard of Britain's stringent immigration procedures

BETH SHALOM HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTRE

Laxton, Nottinghamshire

**Annual AJR visit
Sunday 13 June 1999**

£17 per person including coach fare
& vegetarian buffet lunch
(£7.50 for those using own transport)

Coach leaves Finchley Road Underground
Station, behind Waitrose, 8.30am prompt
and Stanmore Station, 8.45am prompt

Booking essential: Please contact
AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, Frognal,
London NW3 6AL

Second Successful Season

Enjoy

- * Excellent food
- * Stimulating talk
- * Enlivening discussion
- * Meeting new friends

AJR LUNCHEON CLUB

on Wednesday 19th May 1999
at 15 Cleve Road, NW6 3RL
11.45 for 12.15pm

Guest speaker: **Stanley Kaye**
'Diamonds – past, present
and future'

Reservations (£8)
from Sylvia, Renée and Susie
Tel: 0171 328 0208

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

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

Thursday	6	May
Tuesday	11	May
Thursday	20	May
Wednesday	26	May
Tuesday	1	June

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 ...

Rich man, poor man ...

Can it be readily comprehended that today, in one of the world's wealthiest countries, some 40% of families are regarded as living in poverty? Not perhaps wretched Dickensian poverty, but with a household income less than half the national average. In Britain the gap between the richest and the poorest has actually increased in the last 20 years and by 1996 the number of children living in poor households reached 4.3 million, a three-fold rise in three decades.

Should any of this be of any consequence to those who are doing very nicely thank you and whose children are enjoying the benefits of motivating schools and burgeoning colleges and universities? Many from within the ranks of the less socially concerned would regard such disparities as the consequences of a free market economy. In this scenario, those with the skills, aptitudes and propensity for hard work (and their children) tend to collar the wealth, while those lacking these virtues sink to the bottom of the pile.

Members of any ethnic minority (but perhaps especially our own) would do well to pause before applying this cold

dictum. Immigrant groups retain their own culture and often strive to over-compete in an alien society.

The children of the poor are caught in a self-perpetuating cycle which produces low aspirations and a lack of qualifications and marketable skills, severely limiting their chances of upward mobility. Neither can any correlation with anti-social or racist behaviour and criminality be ignored.

Redistributive taxation, whereby the rich are taxed to help the poor, is now unfashionable, though the minimum wage should bring some benefit. Full employment would seem a key policy, but the post-industrial society no longer guarantees jobs for those whose only contribution is unskilled labour in an age of information technology and robotics. A massive investment in numeracy, literacy and skills training would appear the preferred solution, but will it prove possible to overcome animosity to their present undistinguished educational institutions which the children of the poor leave at the earliest opportunity before they can acquire more sophisticated skills?

□ Ronald Channing

PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

Afternoon entertainment programme –

MAY/JUNE 1999

Sun	2	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT	Wed	19	LUNCHEON CLUB
Mon	3	CLOSED – MAY BANK HOLIDAY	Thur	20	David Rose, baritone & Vivienne Trenner, soprano, accompanied by Daphne Lewis, piano
Tue	4	Paul & Sinikka Coleman	Sun	23	Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton, violin accompanied by Peter Gellhorn, piano
Wed	5	Alla Kravchuk, soprano, accompanied by Brian Evans MBE, piano	Mon	24	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Thur	6	Avril Kaye & David Jedwab accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth, piano	Tue	25	Dorothy Sayers, piano & accordion
Sun	9	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT	Wed	26	William Haskins, horn, Robin Brightman, violin & Tim Carey, piano
Mon	10	KARD & GAMES KLUB	Thur	27	The Geoffrey Whitworth & Amanda Palmer duo
Tue	11	Gloria Moss, Peter Irvine & Bernard Wilcox	Sun	30	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
Wed	12	Sue Kennett, soprano accompanied by Gordon Weaver, piano	Mon	31	CLOSED – BANK HOLIDAY
Thur	13	The Geoffrey Strum & Helen Blake duo	Tue	1	Amanda Palmer, soprano accompanied by Marek Dabrowski, piano
Sun	16	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT	Wed	2	Amanda Palmer, soprano accompanied by Angus Cunningham, piano
Mon	17	KARD & GAMES KLUB	Thur	3	Ann Sheffield, cello & David Richmond, violin, accompanied by Madeleine Whitelaw, piano
Tue	18	Lucy White & Juliet Davery			

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Births

Finestone. Tara and Peter are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Thea Louise, sister for Joshua and Katie. Born 2 April 1999. Fifth grandchild for Ruth and Eric and fifth greatgrandchild for Frank and the late Dorothea Henderson.

Deaths

Donath. Kaethe Donath passed away in Cornwall on 4 March 1999 after a short illness. Deeply mourned by her loving daughter Renée, son-in-law Geoffrey and hugely missed by grandchildren Catherine and Chas.

Falton. Martha Falton née Fritz, born in Vienna, passed away in London February 1999. She will be missed by her family and friends.

CLASSIFIED

Miscellaneous Services

Manicure & Pedicure in the comfort of your own home. Telephone 0181 343 0976.

Day Centre

Shirley Lever at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. New Clothes for Sale, dresses, underwear, cardigans etc. Wednesday 5 May and Thursday 27 May, 9.45-11.45am.

Societies

Beacon Reunion June 17. For information contact Erica Prean, 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.

The AJR does not accept responsibility for the standard of service rendered by advertisers

AJR

Tel: 0171-431 6161

WANTED!

Private collector wants paintings, drawings, prints by **ERICH KAHAN** (Stuttgart 1904 - London 1980)

Replies to **Box Number 1251**

FOR SALE

BOURNEMOUTH, Eastcliff, 3 bedroom (2 fitted), second floor flat, 1 bathroom, fully fitted kitchen, carpeted throughout, g.c.h., undercover parking, excellent position, ideal holiday home. £78,500. 0181-386 6386.

Second Generation Network in association with AJR & ACJR

one day visit to

BETH SHALOM HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTRE Laxton, Nottinghamshire

Director Stephen Smith talks on Second Generation Issues

Sunday 9th May 1999

£16 including coach & vegetarian lunch
£8 own transport

Depart Golders Green 8.30am & pickup at Stanmore
For booking phone 0171 431 4106 (ansaphone)

Optician

Dr Howard Solomons BSc FBCO

Dental Surgeon

Dr H Alan Shields &

Chiropodist

Trevor Goldman SRC

by appointment at

The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre 15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6

Please make appointments with **Sylvia Matus, Tel: 0171 328 0208**

LEO BAECK HOUSE

The Bishop's Avenue, London N2 0BQ

ANNUAL OPEN DAY & BAZAAR

Sunday 20 June 3-5pm

Entry £3 incl. tea & cakes (Children free)

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**

LINK

Psychotherapy Centre

- a service for the Jewish Community
The Centre offers groups for the 2nd and 3rd generation and psychotherapy, counselling and consultation for individuals, families and organisations. Fees are negotiable.

Enquiries to 0181 349 0111

Typewriters, etc. Quality repairs & servicing

Carried out by experienced engineer
Collections arranged
Free quotations & details from:
Gordon Spencer, Tel: 0181 445 1839

SWITCH ON ELECTRICS

Rewires and all household electrical work.
PHONE PAUL: 0181-200 3518

ALTERATIONS

OF ANY KIND TO **LADIES' FASHIONS**
I also design and make children's clothes
West Hampstead area
0171-328 6571

AJR GROUP CONTACTS

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

TORRINGTON HOMES

Mrs. Pringsheim, S.R.N. **MATRON**
For Elderly, Retired and Convalescent
(Licensed by Borough of Barnet)
♦ Single and Double Rooms.
♦ H/C Basins and CH in all rooms.
♦ Gardens, TV and reading rooms.
♦ Nurse on duty 24 hours.
♦ Long and short term, including trial period if required.

From £300 per week
0181-445 1171 Office hours
0181-455 1335 other times
NORTH FINCHLEY

BELSIZE SQUARE APARTMENTS

24 BELSIZE SQUARE, NW3
Tel: 0171-794 4307 or 0171-435 2557

MODERN SELF-CATERING HOLIDAY ROOMS, RESIDENT HOUSEKEEPER
MODERATE TERMS
NEAR SWISS COTTAGE STATION

Residential Home Clara Nehab House

(Leo Baeck Housing Association Ltd.)
13-19 Leaside Crescent NW11

All rooms with Shower W.C. and H/C Basins en-suite
Spacious Garden - Lounge & Dining Room - Lift
Near Shops and Public Transport
24 Hour Care - Physiotherapy
Long & short Term - Respite Care - Trial Periods

Enquiries: **Josephine Woolf**
Otto Schiff Housing Association
The Bishops Avenue N2 0BG
Phone: 0181-209 0022

AJR MEALS ON WHEELS

A wide variety of high quality kosher frozen food is available, ready made and delivered to your door via the AJR meals on wheels service. The food is cooked in our own kitchens in Cleve Road, NW6, by our experienced staff.

If you live in North or North West London and wish to take advantage of this service, phone **Susie Kaufman** on 0171-328 0208 for details and an assessment interview.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

FAMILY EVENTS
First 15 words free of charge, £2.00 per 5 words thereafter.
CLASSIFIED, SEARCH NOTICES - £2.00 per five words.
BOX NUMBERS - £3.00 extra.
DISPLAY ADVERTS
per single column inch
65 mm (3 column page) £12.00
48mm (4 column page) £10.00
COPYDATE 5 weeks prior to publication

Art Notes

To mark the sixth centenary of the birth of **Rogier van der Weyden** (ca 1399-1464), one of the most influential artists of 15th century painting in the Netherlands, the National Gallery has mounted a small, but important, exhibition of his work. Although only about twenty of his paintings have survived, the exhibition has succeeded in bringing together major loans from abroad, as well as the Gallery's own five paintings attributed to the artist. Van der Weyden was a superb draughtsman with a keen observation of detail and, above all, an intensely emotional style that makes him so outstanding among his contemporaries. Until July 4.

The Painter's Eye, at the National Portrait Gallery until June 13, is a fascinating display that looks at how a portrait is viewed by the trained and untrained eye. Artists and scientists combine, by means of special cameras and sensors, to investigate how an artist looks at a model and how his hand reproduces what the eye has seen and the brain interpreted and what processes are involved when members of the public view portraits. Visitors are invited to look at four different portraits – by Rembrandt, Gwen John, Andy Warhol and Frank Auerbach – to consider ways in which they themselves view a portrait in light of the display's projections.

David Bailey – Birth of the Cool, at the Barbican Art Gallery until June 27, focuses on Bailey's dynamic career from his first serious enthusiasm while serving with the RAF to the present day. Featured are over 200 black-and-white and colour prints, including many classic images. Also on display is a selection of previously unpublished photographs discovered in Bailey's archives. The exhibition explores Bailey's success in the sixties and the development of his distinctive style, and contrasts Bailey's portraits from this era with powerful new portraits from the nineties.

Finally, four works by **Bernard Meninsky** have been donated to the Ben Uri Art Society by the Contemporary Art Society in memory of the art historian **Cecily Lowenthal**. An exhibition of Meninsky's work is to be held jointly by



Portrait of a Lady after Rogier van der Weyden

both societies next year. The Sternberg Centre for Judaism has recently put on display a notable painting, *The Talmud School* by **Sir William Rothenstein**, on extended loan by the heirs of Redcliffe and Nina Salaman.

□ Barry Fealdman

SB's Column

A late appreciation. It was the tragedy of **Ernst Krenek's** life (1900-1991) that the height of his musical achievements coincided with the advent of Fascism; his jazz opera *Jonny spielt auf*, premièred in Leipzig in 1927, encountered political resistance and the performance of the twelve-tone opera *Karl V* (Vienna 1934) was aborted for similar reasons. Krenek emigrated to the States, where he wrote not only music but 'about music' and was hailed by reviewers as 'best known among the least known' composers. Krenek's 1000-page *Memoirs*, recently published in German by Hoffmann & Kampe, offers a fascinating panorama of musical life in the inter-war years. Full of facts, it is also suffused with personal bitterness.

Innsbruck. The Tiroler Landestheater, centre of cultural activities in Western Austria, presents a varied programme of opera, operetta, drama and comedy; this spring's repertoire ranges from *Rigoletto* and *Magic Flute* to Sobol's *Ghetto*. The new director is mezzo-soprano Brigitte Fassbänder, daughter of the popular bass baritone Willy Domgraf-Fassbänder (1897-1978) who sang Figaro in the first Glyndebourne season in 1934.

Hit songs of today are tuneless; thus Hungarian-born actress and singer Martha

Eggerth in a press interview when she visited Vienna recently. Her opinion is widely shared by elderly filmgoers who remember her in Willy Forst's Schubert film *Leise flehen meine Lieder*. Martha Eggerth, widow of tenor Jan Kiepura, was the record-breaking *Merry Widow*. She sang the role in Europe and in the USA nearly 4000 times.

Birthday. Charming German soprano Aneliese Rothenberger, prominent on the international opera circuit during the fifties and sixties, who later hosted the German TV series *Anneliese invites*, celebrates her 75th birthday. At the BBC London she was a frequent guest of the music programme *Melodies for you* with the late Eric Robinson □

GERMAN BOOKS

WHY NOT CONTACT US FOR A VALUATION?

We are always seeking pre-1950 German books in ALL subject areas, especially Exile/Internment literature and Judaica.

We also buy interesting Autographs, Original Manuscripts, Etchings and Drawings and Art Photographs.

Eric Brueck

Antiquariat Metropolis

Leerbachstr. 85, D-60322 Frankfurt a/M
Tel: 0049 69745919

Members of the PBFA

REGULAR VISITS TO LONDON

GERMAN and ENGLISH BOOKS BOUGHT

Antiquarian, secondhand and modern books of quality always wanted.

We're long-standing advertisers here and leading buyers of books from AJR members.

Immediate response to your letter or phone call.

We pay good prices and come to collect.

Please contact:
Robert Hornung MA(Oxon)
2 Mount View, Ealing,
London W5 1PR
Telephone 0181-998 0546
(5pm to 9pm is best)



HOUSE DOCTOR

Depression

For many people it is difficult to differentiate between being sad and unhappy and being depressed, but depression is a real illness which often has no obvious cause. Patients commonly respond to my suggestion that they may be depressed by saying "but I have nothing to be depressed about, I can't be suffering from an illness". This is untrue since depression in older people tends to be of a type caused not by circumstances but by lack of specialist chemicals in the brain responsible for mental function. Whereas younger patients may show their depression in an obvious manner, for older people the onset may be more gradual and there may be some particular features such as increasing tiredness, weakness and body aches and pains often with disturbance of appetite and constipation. Rarely patients may appear to be profoundly confused or agitated because of an underlying depression.

More mature patients respond very

well to anti-depressant medication which helps to restore the chemical imbalance in the brain responsible for the illness. Modern anti-depressant tablets are not addictive nor are they as likely as previous treatments to cause severe side effects. For most patients a course of treatment lasting some months is sufficient to restore the missing chemicals in the brain and to return the patient's personality to normal.

It is clear that patients who have suffered severe emotional trauma in their past become more likely to experience psychological problems as they grow older and this factor is important to bear in mind in the elderly when identifying and diagnosing depressive illness. Only very rarely will depression in the elderly require hospital treatment or intensive psychiatric intervention. Most patients with this problem can readily be helped by their G.P. and staff working in primary care, once they are aware that the problem exists..

□ Dr Max Bayer

Regretfully, the Doctor cannot enter into personal correspondence

SEARCH NOTICES

Lena Neumann, born 23rd May 1907, arrived England from Vienna 15th February 1939. Lived at 30 Marchmont Street WC1. Also **Siegmund Neumann**, born 1903. Please telephone Jack Young 0181 458 6217 with any information.

Juliana and Kornelia Stadler, who came with Kindertransport and were placed with families Heller and Barrett, are looked for by relatives in USA. Z Herman, 14 Fawley Road, London NW6 1SH. Tel 0181 435 3158.

Rabbi Dr Moritz Bauer, former rabbi of Vienna's Neudeggertempel and lecturer at the Maimonides Institute, who emigrated to Britain. He or his children are being sought for a historical research project. Any information would be welcomed by Dr Evelyn Adunka, Deinhardsteingasse 18/9, 1160 Vienna. Tel & Fax: 43 1 485 8386.

Progressive Education at Jewish schools in Germany 1920-42. Berlin University sponsored researcher is seeking teachers and former pupils to interview, in-

cluding Anna Essinger, founder & leader of Landschulheim Herrlingen, Germany (from 1933 New Herrlingen in Kent) and Friedolin Friedmann, school director in Caputh, near Potsdam. Will be in Britain in July. Please contact Etke Weisser, Bleibtreustr. 46, D-10623 Berlin, Germany. Tel: 030 881 6866 Fax: 030 881 5511.

Aachen, 1933-45. Survivors, their families and friends who lived in Aachen, Germany, are being sought to help with their valuable memories in compiling a Book of Remembrance. Please contact Judith Ulmer, Merowingerstr. 63, D-52070 Aachen, Germany. Tel: 0049 241 152995.

Aaron Leib Hauser (Hauzer), or his heirs, a kosher butcher who came from Germany with his family to Manchester in 1939, is being sought by his great-great niece Mrs Edie Lorant of California. Please contact researcher Michelle Jackson, 9 Bretons Cottages, Rainham Road, Rainham, Essex RM13 7LL □

HOMECARE SERVICE

The AJR is pleased to announce the launch of a pilot scheme for a Homecare Service.

The new service is specifically for members needing care at home but requiring some financial assistance.

Applications will be assessed by the Social Services team and a financial contribution is expected from each recipient.

For further information please apply to the Social Services team on 0171 431 6161

or by letter to
**AJR Social Services
1 Hampstead Gate,
1a Froggnal, London NW3 6AL**



SPRING GROVE

214 Finchley Road
London NW3

**London's Most Luxurious
RETIREMENT HOME**

- ★ Entertainment - Activities
- ★ Stress Free Living
- ★ 24 Hour Staffing
- ★ Excellent Cuisine
- ★ Full En-Suite Facilities

**Call for more information
or a personal tour**

0181-446 2117

or **0171-794 4455**

Simon P. Rhodes M.Ch.S.
STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST
Surgeries at:
67 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (opp M&S)
Telephone 0171-624 1576
3 Queens Close (off Green Lane)
Edgware, Middx HA8 7PU
Telephone 0181-905 3264
Visiting chiropody service available

Claims deadline

The Government has set a deadline of 30th September 1999 for the submission of claims by holders (or their heirs) of bank accounts, property and other assets which were confiscated under Britain's Trading with the Enemy Act of 1939.

An independent panel of three assessors, headed by Lord Archer of Sandwell who investigated the matter last year at the Government's request, will adjudicate on each claim and payments are then to commence only after the closure date. Ministers have confirmed that any compensation will maintain its original value by reference to subsequent increases in the Retail Price Index.

An additional 5,000 names of former holders of confiscated accounts, largely from Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Yugoslavia and Japan, have been posted on the Internet additional to those already listed from Germany, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. (Website: www.enemyproperty.gov.uk).

New claimants should register their claim and request the official claim form by writing to: The Enemy Property Claims Assessment Panel, Rooms 116/118, 10 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NN. Existing claimants should be receiving their claim forms directly, but can contact the Assessment Panel if they do not.

Further information and guidance may be obtained from the Holocaust Educational Trust, BCM Box 7892, London WC1N 3XX, or by phoning Michael Newman on 0171 222 6822, Fax: 0171 233 0161. RDC

50 YEARS AGO

ACHIEVEMENTS AND TASKS

This year's General Meeting of the AJR was the last one to be addressed by Dr K. Alexander. The achievements of the AJR and its related organisations are unthinkable without the labour of Dr Alexander. In this country, he was among the first to conceive the idea of a self-representation of the Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria. He has been an Executive member of the AJR since its inception in 1941 and became its General Secretary in 1943. From the outset, he set out to secure the right of permanent residence in Great Britain for all those who wished to stay here after the war.

After the war, he immediately got in touch with the surviving German Jews in France, Holland and Belgium and with German Jewish organisations overseas, especially in Israel and the USA. The formation of the 'Council of Jews from Germany' was the outcome and Dr Alexander became its General Secretary. AJR Information, May 1949

WITH APPRECIATION

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the legacies received in 1998 by the AJR and the AJR Charitable Trust from the estates of the following:

Mrs M Antonowitz	Mrs L J Geismar	Kathe Jacobson	Eric Rockwall
Dr Alice Apt	Elinor Glucksmann	Edith Kochmann	Anne Sachs
Elizabeth Bardos	Mr Goitein	Mrs L E Koenigs	Ilse Samuel
Hildegard Cohen	Gerda Goodall	Betty Kuttner	Walter Saul
J J Dollinger	Lore Gort	Rita Lehman	Grigory Schmerling
Elsa Dzialiner	Elizabeth Han	E K Litthauer	Mrs E Sinclair
Gertrude Fackenheim	Rosalie Heimann	Margarete Philipp	Edith Stein
J Farago	Hiltrud Helft	Hilda Pollack	Walter Strauss
Tauba Ferber	Mrs F Hohenberg	Malvine Reich	Helen Herta Ury

THE PRESENCE OF THE ABSENCE

**International Holocaust Conference
1-3 September 1999, University of Vienna**

A unique collaborative conference, organised by colleagues in Austria, Germany and the United Kingdom, takes place in Vienna, beginning on the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of war.

The conference will focus on two main themes: Austria's role in the Holocaust, including its unwillingness to confront its past post-Holocaust, and communication and transmission of the Holocaust in the family and society world-wide from the perspective of eyewitnesses and descendants of victims and victimisers.

We hope that members of the AJR will be interested in attending as this will be the first public conference on the topic open to an international audience.

The history and participation of Austria in relation to the Holocaust and its aftermath is a complex and sensitive topic, still too often absent from Holocaust scholarship and debate. Whilst much of the focus post-war has been directed towards Germany, Austria seems to have escaped almost unscathed, with signs of change only in the past decade. Although the view that Austria was Hitler's 'first victim' was publicly withdrawn finally in 1991, Austria's complicity, denial and repression of the past continues to provoke understandable anger, particularly from its former Jewish citizens. At the same time, Vienna is also regarded with an ambiguous affection by many of those who fled. The conference will seek to examine some of these tensions and highlight the mechanisms of a society that enabled and allowed this to happen and reflect on changing attitudes.

The three days will be divided into closer examination of the following topics: Concepts of identity in perpetrator societies and in different survivor communities, including how this is changing; expressing identity post-Holocaust through creative forms including commemoration, art and education. Economics, justice and restitution, including strategies employed in perpetrator societies in maintaining and promoting myths and denying culpability. The participation and collusion of the main professions in relation to their past post-Holocaust, for example in medicine, law and social sciences and the role of the descendant generations in challenging this. The future of memory – how the descendant generations will perpetuate and develop the memory of the Holocaust and its meaning in the next century.

The working languages of the conference will be English and German, with simultaneous translation. The conference will take place at the University of Vienna with daily morning lectures, afternoon workshops and some organised evening events. There will be a guided walking tour of Vienna viewing buildings in relation to past history. The conference fee is £100, including lunch and coffee each day and we are able to assist with hotel accommodation at a reduced rate.

Please contact us for further details, for more information, or if you have any questions.

The conference is supported and part-funded by the European Commission and the Austrian Ministries for Culture, Foreign Affairs, the Interior, Science and the Environment, Youth and Family

**Second Generation Trust PO Box 2863
London NW3 5BQ England. Tel: +44
171 431 2610 Fax: +44 171 431 0210
email: secgentrust@compuserve.com**

NEWSROUND

Belated justice

Anthony Sawoniuk was found guilty of murdering 18 Jewish inhabitants of Domachevo, Belarus, in 1942 and given two life sentences by a British court. Sawoniuk was recruited by the invading Germans and took part in the brutal killing of the town's Jewish population of 2,900.

Lords a-passing

Following the death in Berlin of the world-renowned American-born violinist, conductor and humanitarian campaigner Yehudi Menuhin at the age of 82, Prof Max Beloff, historian and founder Chancellor of the University College of Buckingham, died at the age of 85. Both children of Russian emigré parents who were elevated to the peerage, they took pride in their Jewish origins.

Curriculum continued

A pledge that Holocaust studies will remain part of the revised curriculum for 11 to 14 year-old schoolchildren was given by Government Education Minister Baroness Blackstone in response to a question from Lord Janner in the House of Lords.

SS funds in Swiss accounts?

Wartime German intelligence chief Walter Schellenberg ordered the transfer of SS funds to Swiss accounts, according to documents discovered by the Simon Wiesenthal Institute in Los Angeles. Swiss authorities are to investigate the allegations.

Politicians visit Auschwitz

Labour and Conservative MPs joined members of the Metropolitan Police, the Board of Deputies, UJIA and the Holocaust Educational Trust on a one-day visit to Auschwitz and Krakow.

Czech restitution

The Czech Republic's 6000-strong Jewish community is hoping that a government commission's report will lead to compensation for property and other assets lost following Germany's invasion in March 1939. Though full restitution is unlikely, only a significant payment would offer a measure of recompense.

□ RDC

Wartime's closed doors**Britain's refugee policy revisited**

Professor Bernard Wasserstein's book *Britain and the Jews of Europe 1939-1945*, published some twenty years ago, earned the place of a standard work. With the opening of hitherto closed files (under the 30-year-rule) at the Public Records Office, Prof Wasserstein returned to re-examine the subject in the light of new evidence. In an address to the Wiener Library, he discussed his revised and updated edition with particular reference to the aspect of intelligence.

Prior to the outbreak of war, Britain and her Empire held to a fairly liberal immigration policy which enabled 60-70,000 refugees from Nazi persecution to secure a haven. With the declaration of war, however, Britain shut her doors tight and kept them shut until 1945. In Prof Wasserstein's judgement, this policy operated specifically against Jews (though plans had been drawn up to rescue 300,000 people from France and the Low Countries).

The British authorities applied the provisions of the 1939 White Paper, which restricted immigration into Palestine, with rigour. In the first two years of the war, in particular, they set out to seal potential ports of embarkation with zeal. Wasserstein called it "a war within a war – a war against the Jews!"

While Britain supplied aid to national resistance movements in occupied Europe (among them Poles, French, Greeks, Yugoslavs), Jews were not seen as allies and missions to impede their genocide, like the bombing of Auschwitz, were never carried out.

The newly revealed intelligence documentation provided clear evidence of massive Nazi atrocities against the Jews following Germany's invasion of the USSR in June 1941. By September it was beyond doubt that the Germans were committing genocide against the Jews.

Despite this, British policy continued to be led by security considerations. The internment of 30,000 'enemy aliens' in 1940 had a dubious justification even in the face of a strong threat of invasion. Nevertheless, there was intelligence co-operation between the British and Zionists during the war; SOE ran a network of Zionist agents code-named

'friends'. When victory at El Alamein in November 1942 removed the German threat to Palestine, Zionist agents were dropped behind enemy lines in Europe, often at great personal cost.

Britain's war aims paralleled those of the Zionists, but not entirely. Whereas Britain sought victory at all costs, the fate of the Jews of Europe "did not figure at all", said Wasserstein. The Zionists' priorities were the rescue of the Jews of Europe and the securing of a home for them in Palestine.

Prof Wasserstein concluded that British officials were aware of Nazi atrocities against the Jews, that Auschwitz was never designated a military target, despite Churchill's wishes to the contrary, and that Jewish resistance in Europe rarely received any material aid, an essential prerequisite for successful operations. As far as any rescue of the Jews of Europe was concerned the British, in Prof Wasserstein's view, passed by on the other side.

□ Ronald Channing

Kinder sculpture**Suitcase full of memories**

The sculpture being created by Flor Kent, as a reminder of the *Kindertransporte* who came to Britain prior to World War II and a token of gratitude to its people, is to stand in a prominent position at the main entrance to London's Liverpool Street Station where the children arrived.

Accompanying a life-size bronze figure of a child, for which a 6/7-year-old grand or great-granddaughter of a *Kind* is to be the model, will be a giant glass suitcase displaying original objects brought by the *Kinder* from their homes. All of these objects will be protected for posterity by the use of state-of-the-art conservation processes.

In addition to original letters from the *Kind's* parents and friends, among other objects required are shoes, clothes, suitcases, documents, letters, photos, dolls, toys, coins and notes, kipot, talitot, books, etc. "Absolutely anything, in any condition, is very welcome", says the sculptor. If you can help, please contact Flor Kent direct at 40 Vineyard Hill Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 7JH. Tel/Fax: 0181 944 5350. Thankyou.

□ RDC