

AJR *Information*

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Don't miss...

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of history**

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to apologise**

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**Haider ante
portas**

The hills are
alive with
the sound

of music.

Lederhosen-clad
voters are marching
to the beat of
*Foreigners out, Bar
asylum seekers and
Austria for the
Austrians.*

Sixty years ago
their fathers'
ecstatic welcome to
Hitler was ascribed
to poverty. Today's
Austria, the world's
seventh richest
country in terms of
per capita income,
apparently still
craves a leader
figure.

Up till now the
widely execrated
'pariah' states Iraq,
Iran, Burma and
N Korea have all
come from the
Third World. Are
the Austrians really
prepared to emerge
as the first pariah
country in the heart
of Europe? □

An open letter to the Editor, Daily Telegraph

Not as black as he was shirted

Sir - The School of Historical Revisionism - Joint Principals David Irving and Roger Garaudy - has recruited a newcomer to the faculty: your contributor AN Wilson.

On the same day, 29 September, that the Almeida Theatre restaged Marlowe's *Jew of Malta*, featuring a Jewish monster in human shape, the *Daily Telegraph* carried an article by Wilson which attempted the exact opposite on Mosley's behalf: it portrayed a genuine monster in engagingly human, not to say superman shape.

Irving's *chef d'oeuvre* is the denial of Hitler's complicity in the Holocaust - which, according to Garaudy, never actually took place. Compared to those big hitters Wilson makes a distinctly minor contribution to Revisionism: he merely pours gallons of whitewash over the British blackshirt leader.

He dubs Mosley a 'patriot' who in 1939 called upon his followers to join up. He conveniently fails to mention Mosley's most prominent follower 'Lord Haw-Haw', who did join up in 1939 - as a volunteer serving on Goebbels' Radio Berlin. Several hundred other British Fascists, including Mosley himself, were simultaneously detained in this country under Emergency Regulation 18B.

Wilson approvingly quotes Mosley's subsequent statement that he was 'proud to have gone to prison rather than fight an *unnecessary* (our italics) war which cost millions of lives'. (In his heart of hearts, of course, Mosley was unlikely to regret most of the lives lost, i.e. twenty million Communist Russians and six million Jews.)

Apropos of the latter, the term Jew doesn't even appear in Wilson's article. Now, writing about Mosley without a single mention of his Jew-baiting is on a par with composing a piece on Captain Scott that totally omits the Antarctic.

In his rhetoric the Jews, a term interchangeable with 'international financiers', were the root cause of Britain's plight in the 1930s. On the streets poor East End Jews, only one generation removed from the Russian pogroms, served as a soft target for his incitement to mob violence.

Lastly, Wilson presents the onetime Tory/Labour politician's metamorphosis into a Hitler clone as eminently understandable, since nearly all visitors to Berlin were charmed by the Fuehrer. Besides 'in 1936 the Nazi horrors were all in the future'. In Wilson's estimate, the incarceration and torture of thousands of concentration camp inmates, the killing of hundreds during the Night of the Long Knives, stripping the Jews of their civic rights and the murder of the Peace Nobel laureate Carl von Ossietzky do not, apparently, constitute horror.

The term has, of course, widely varied connotations. We can legitimately invoke it when we read a historically illiterate rehabilitation of the putative Gauleiter of German-occupied Britain in your influential newspaper.

□ Editor, AJR Information



Diana Franklin, who played the *Andantino* from Mozart's 'Jeunehomme' piano concerto at the AJR Concert at Imperial College, with Richard Dickins, who conducted the players of the London Concertino. Together with internationally acclaimed soloists Raphael Wallfisch, cello, and David Juritz, violin, the high standard of performance and a well-chosen programme delighted a very appreciative audience.

Ronald Channing

Profile

A lady who makes things happen

Born in mid-twenties' Vienna, Lilly Allen grew up in its Jewish district, aka the Matzo Island. Her coffeehouse owner father and mother brought up three children with loving care. For all that, Lilly feels that the mother discriminated against the girls: the brother was sent to grammar school while she and her sister had to make do with secondary moderns.

After the Anschluss the mother contrived, via Quaker connections, to dispatch all three children to England. She and the father stayed behind and perished in the Shoah.

In England Lilly completed her schooling and did office work, eventually acquiring the skills of bilingual secretary. (The brother, meanwhile, studied for a degree in his spare time and ultimately became Senior Maths' master at a school).

In 1949 Lilly married a fellow refugee



Lilly Allen

from Czechoslovakia. During the following years she kept working to enable her husband to be trained as a diamond polisher. When he, too, started earning good money they took long holidays in Israel and Italy, where they met up with surviving relatives.

In the late 1950s, they had a son and daughter who, to Lilly's intense pride, were to do well at school and go on to university. The son is now a consultant psychiatrist – which for Lilly is vicarious fulfilment of her own girlish ambition to study medicine.

In 1985, convinced that the offspring of refugees had problems integrating into English – or even Anglo-Jewish – society she launched (together with John Dunston) the Association of Children of Jewish Refugees. Not content with that, she soon afterwards set up a club for older age groups called FJR (Former Jewish Refugees). The 40-strong FJR now in its thirteenth(!) year, meets monthly at a West Kensington hotel owned by the brother of a member. Though turn-out fluctuates, Lilly's own brother and sister are always in attendance.

Never one to let grass grow under her feet, Lilly is now actively thinking of setting up a successor body to RoK (Reunion of Kindertransport), as well as running Keep Fit classes for elderly refugees. Which only proves that age is more of a state of mind than a physical condition.

□ Richard Grunberger

Might-have-beens of history

Had Michael Portillo's experiments with homosexuality come to light in Franco Spain, his six fiercely Catholic uncles might, for the sake of consistency, have been obliged to kill him. Homosexuality was one of the cankers, alongside democracy and atheism, which patriots enrolled in Franco's crusade aimed to eradicate. Had they not shot the great Garcia Lorca as much for his sexual as for his political orientation?

The uncles may even have shot Michael's father, had he not fled to England. (After all, a civil war is fratricide writ large.)

In history hardly anything is ever inevitable. Inheriting the same genes and subjected to the identical family environment, one of the seven Portillo brothers became a Socialist, while the other six turned fascist; and that solitary Socialist subsequently fathered a son who became standard bearer of the British Right.

In fact, chance plays a huge role in history – as I hope to demonstrate through more trenchant examples than genetic modifications to the Portillo family tree.

If, in 1763, Tsarina Catherine (aka the Great) and her fellow conspirators had murdered Tsar Peter III a few months earlier he could not have made a separate peace with Frederick the Great which saved the latter from the consequences of his defeat by Russia and her allies. In that hypothetical case Prussia would have remained a third rate power, instead of graduating into the second rank, from which position Bismarck elevated her to grand Imperial status. Likewise, if Friedrich III, the liberal father of Wilhelm II, had not died of throat cancer in 1888, the German Imperial crown would not have passed to the Kaiser and the world would have been spared the Great War.

Without that war there would have been no Ludendorff in the position to put Lenin aboard the sealed train in 1917 and to participate in Hitler's Munich Putsch in 1923.

Without Hitler mankind would have

been spared the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939.

Now consider the following hypothetical scenario: Two years later, after months of heavy bombing, the British war cabinet meets. Defence Minister Alan Clark urges acceptance of Hitler's peace offer which lets Germany keep Europe and Britain her Empire. Churchill objects to handing over half a million Jews. Clark retorts: that's exactly the number of British lives our separate peace will have saved by 1945. If we stay in the war Labour will come to power, in that year and Stalin will swallow half of Europe. Churchill is voted out of office and hardly any Jew remains alive in Britain.

Next scene: the Kremlin, November 1960. The Politburo agonises over Fidel Castro's demand that more Soviet nuclear missiles be despatched to Cuba. Khrushchev argues the opposite, urging that the missiles already there should be withdrawn. He loses the vote. World War Three breaks out. Hardly anybody is left alive.

□ RG

Wheels within wheels

Bruno We tried to lift it, couldn't even shift it, we were getting nowhere, so we had a cup of tea...

Arthur What are you talking about?

Bruno The Millennium Wheel, of course.

Arthur Oh that! Don't worry, it'll be up by the year 2000.

Bruno I wouldn't be so sure

Arthur Why not?

Bruno For the same reason that Vienna had the *Riesenrad* in the Prater for a hundred years before London thought about it.

Arthur You call that a reason?

Bruno The English only started thinking about it seriously 50 years ago, when Orson Welles came back from filming *The Third Man* and said: We ought to have this sort of thing

Arthur But Orson Welles was an American.

Bruno (tapping his forehead) Of course he was! That's why he became so fat.

Arthur You do go in for stereotyping.

Bruno Stereotypes, shamereotypes – they always have a grain of truth in them.

Arthur Give me an example.

Bruno People read *One Fat Englishman* because it was so unusual.

Arthur You think the English are all so thin?

Bruno If they are not, they would like to be. That's why they adored Princess Diana.

Arthur Have you seen Vanessa Feltz?

Bruno (pensively) Come to think of it Princess Di, too, like the Millennium Wheel, imitated an Austrian model.

Arthur What model?

Bruno Sissy, of course! The Empress Elizabeth was anorexic, bulimic, unhappily married, a fitness freak and died tragically.

Arthur (tongue-in-cheek) Is there anything – apart from Shakespeare, Newton, Darwin, the jet engine

and DNA – where the English didn't have to copy the Austrians?

Bruno That's a real brain teaser! Certainly Fortnum, of Fortnum and Mason fame, left George the Third's service like Sacher, of Torte fame, left Metternich's. Shelley died as young as Schubert and Kipling hailed England's 'dominion over palm and pine' after Grillparzer had told Radetzky: *'In deinem Lager ist Österreich'*... *Apropos* of the latter, it was only after Johann Strauss had written the *Radetzky March* that Elgar composed *Pomp and Circumstance*.

Arthur Talking of generals, I suppose you will claim that Eugene of Savoy and not Marlborough, won the Battle of Blenheim.

Bruno I wouldn't go so far as that – but you must admit that the art at the Belvedere is superior to that at Blenheim Palace: Klimt, Schiele, Kokoschka...

Arthur Not to forget the postcard painter Hitler!

Bruno Listen! Even when it comes to top Fascists, Austria has the edge over England. Whoever heard of the Mosleys before Sir Oswald? But the Starhemburgs were famous centuries before Prince Rüdiger. So famous, in fact, that the Pope obliged Rüdiger by annulling his marriage.

Arthur But the Pope couldn't have done the same for Mosley because he wasn't a Catholic.

Bruno And that's another thing about the backwardness of the English. From King Charles II to Lord Clark of Civilisation, they thought they had to wait till they were on their death bed before they could become Catholics. As with the Millennium Wheel, they are between 50 and 100 years behind the times.

□ RG

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Literary and theatrical reviews

Austria – unable to apologise

Hella Pick, *UND WELCHE ROLLE SPIELT ÖSTERREICH?* Kremayer & Scheriau, Vienna, 348 Schillings.

This excellent and judicious book, (hopefully soon to appear in English), traces the history of Austria's standing in the post-war world. H. Pick opens with the celebrations in 1980 of the 25th anniversary of the State Treaty which had given Austria her independence in 1955. The Soviets had agreed to withdraw their troops because, at that time, Khrushchev was pursuing détente and during the celebrations Macmillan characterised the Treaty as the only real success in international politics for 25 years.

In 1980 the prestige of Austria was at its height. Her economy owed its remarkable success partly to a disproportionate amount of Marshall Aid, but also to full employment, absence of strikes and low inflation. Voters had rejected communism and embraced western-style democracy. Austria's political system was very stable: it was based on consensus, both under coalition governments and one-party rule. Abroad Austria pursued "active neutrality": although committed to western values, she had good relations with both blocs and especially under Bruno Kreisky (foreign minister and later, Chancellor), played a mediating role between them. He tried to play mediator in the Middle East also, being in 1974 the first western statesman to engage in public discussion with the PLO, then still regarded by the West as a terrorist organisation but considered vital by Kreisky to any Middle Eastern settlement.

His small country had in 1956 offered asylum to 180,000 Hungarian refugees and in 1968 to 96,000 Czechs. When the Soviet bloc began to allow Jewish emigration to Israel, Austria provided transit facilities for a quarter million without thereby endangering her relationships with the Soviet Union. Ex-foreign minister Kurt Waldheim, had been chosen by East and West alike to be UN Secretary General: his wartime career had, amazingly, not then been investigated. And the fact that Kreisky had been elected Chancellor seemed to acquit Austria of continuing antisemitism.

Many Jewish refugees had rejected invitations to attend the celebrations of 1980; and inside Austria Simon Wiesenthal tried to make the country face up to its war-time guilt; but in 1980 his was a lonely voice. In 1943 the Allies had dubbed Austria 'Hitler's first victim' and in 1955 the State Treaty omitted any Austrian acknowledgement of responsibility for having participated in Hitler's war. General Clark, Commander of the US forces in Austria, declared that in Austria, unlike in Germany, the task of the Allies was not the re-education of a people but the restoration of a state. So when Jewish organisations began to press for compensation, Austrian governments told them to address their demands to the successor government in Germany. In 1961 they set up a risibly small fund of just six million dollars to pay pensions to some 4,000 Jews.

Austrian democratic governments aimed for consensus even with ex-Nazis. Four members of Kreisky's Cabinet had belonged to the Nazi Party, one of them even to the Waffen-SS. Kreisky had friendly relations with the right-wing Austrian Freedom Party, home for many ex-Nazis and had even considered forming a coalition with them rather than with the more Centrist Austrian conservative Party. He bitterly resented Simon Wiesenthal's attempt to disturb this complacent attitude towards the past. He both attacked Wiesenthal personally and, in a moment of exasperation, described the Jews, in an interview with the *Spiegel*, as a wretched people (*ein mieses Volk*).

But eventually Wiesenthal gained a wider hearing in the world outside Austria and the rosy picture of the 1980 celebrations began to be tarnished. In 1983 Kreisky's Socialist Party lost its overall majority; Kreisky retired; and his successor, Fred Sinowatz, actually made a coalition with the Freedom Party. In 1985 his Defence Minister welcomed home with a handshake the former SS-Major Walter Reder, a convicted Nazi war-criminal who, at the behest of both Kreisky's and Sinowatz's governments had been released from his Italian life-sentence. This created a major storm both inside and outside Austria; but a rising member of the Freedom Party, Jörg Haider, defended Reder as a soldier who had only done his duty.

And then Kurt Waldheim, at the end of his term at the United Nations, became a

candidate for the presidency of Austria. It was only now that rumours surfaced about his Nazi past and presence in Yugoslavia, where members of his unit carried out massacres. Waldheim denied membership of any such unit; but World Jewish Congress investigation proved him a liar. News leaked out that the American government contemplated barring him from entry into the United States. Instead of giving up his candidature, Waldheim used the leak to urge the Austrians to resist foreign pressure and he persuaded nearly fifty-four percent of them to vote for him in the second round.

During his six-year presidency not only was he himself treated as a pariah by Western governments, but his image rubbed off on the country: the world became aware that it had never confronted the past. In 1988 a British historian published his researches into Cabinet minutes which revealed the outspoken antisemitic terms in which Austrian ministers had long debated and then resisted Jewish demands for adequate reparations, although that obligation had been laid upon them by the 1955 State Treaty.

Austrians, for their part, initially dug in their heels in bitter resentment, but in every election Jörg Haider and his Freedom Party, gained more votes. As he had praised Hitler's employment policies, inherited confiscated Jewish property, opposed immigration of foreigners and urged Austrians to vote "no" in the referendum to join the European Community, his rise caused great unease and did further damage to Austria's image in the world.

Now that the question of the country's past had been so sharply raised and her standing in the world so besmirched, other Austrians woke up to their responsibilities. When Haider became leader of the Freedom Party in 1986, Chancellor Franz Vranitsky ended his alliance with it and went back into coalition with the Conservatives. A determined effort was now made to confront the past: in 1991 Vranitsky publicly admitted the guilt of many Austrians and apologised for it in the name of the whole nation. Real efforts were now made in the areas of education, memorials, commemorative events and reparations. In 1995 a fund of 500 million dollars was set up, from which all Austrian Jewish survivors were paid 70,000 Schillings (about £3,500).

continued on next page

Literary and theatrical reviews

Works of art which had been plundered from Jews were restored to them.

Hella Pick's book was published only days before the recent elections in Austria. While this review is being written, it is touch and go whether the Freedom Party has replaced the Conservatives as the second largest in the state. The conservatives have said that they would not stay in the coalition if they fell to third place. The next few weeks may see Haider in government. It seems that many Austrians are prepared once more to risk their country's good name in the rest of the world. □ *Ralph Blumenau*

Wit from woe

Nathan Englander, FOR THE RELIEF OF UNBEARABLE URGES, Faber & Faber, 1999, £9.99.

For an American-born and now Israel-resident, author to be mentioned in the same breath as Bellow, Malamud and Philip Roth – as Englander has been – is praise indeed. Without comparing him to anybody else, I will say that he is a masterly writer of short stories, of which nine are on offer here.

The first tale, *The Twenty-Seventh Man*, reeks of the shabby murderousness of Stalin's régime. Twenty-six Soviet-Jewish writers are grabbed at the dead of night and put into miserable overcrowded cells. The twenty-seventh man should not have been on the list at all, since he is a writer only in his own mind. But he spends a fascinating time with the writers he adores, the victims of Stalin's hidden, but virulent, Jew-hatred. Being intellectuals they do not realise their peril. They argue and quarrel about the quality of their work and their loyalty to the régime. In the morning they are, still unsuspectingly, led to their execution. Twenty-six are down for the 'treatment'. The executioners don't know what to do with the twenty-seventh. So they shoot him, too.

While I appreciate the irony of that tale, I object to *The Tumblers* which deals with the Holocaust. It features, like the other stories, its quota of helpless people and a confused leader. He gets a group of Jews, destined for a death train, onto another train, with fairly comfortable compartments occupied by acrobats on their way to entertain the living. The performers think their new fellow

passengers are cleverly disguised specimens of their own ilk. In this instance I did not appreciate the irony and failed to see the intention. The Holocaust does not lend itself to allegory.

The remaining stories are truly entertaining and enjoyable. They are simultaneously all-Jewish and all-American, although in one case, *The Gilgul of Park Avenue*, the Jewishness is somewhat problematical. Charles Luger, a 100 per cent goy, with an equally goyish wife, suddenly becomes convinced that he is an ultra-Orthodox Jew, in which delusion he is supported by a really madcap rabbi, himself as unorthodox in spirit as he is orthodox in garb. Take it or leave it – but you will laugh.

You will equally enjoy Englander's tales of dysfunctional husbands and battle-axe wives. One story is of real madness. Another features a Jewish Father Christmas. This collection will certainly provide you with some entertaining hours. □ *John Rossall*

Lost and found

David Vogel, MARRIED LOVE, Halban, 1998, £11.99.

Paolo Maurensig, THE LÜNEBURG VARIATION, Phoenix, 1998, £5.99.

What links those two stories – the first lengthy and introspective, the other short and pithy – is the city of Vienna.

Vogel's book, alas his only one, achieved publication by something of a miracle. It was found hidden in France after Hitler's war. Vogel was a true Viennese, Jewish but totally assimilated and yet the book was written in Hebrew (translated by Dalya Bilu) and underwent something of an odyssey.

The English version reads wonderfully well and seems to convey a true distillation of Vienna of the mid-twenties. Inevitably the author has been compared to Arthur Schnitzler, Franz Kafka and Elias Canetti. I find the reference to the latter far fetched but seem to detect echoes of Stefan Zweig, Robert Musil and even Leopold Sacher-Masoch (without the eroticism of the last-named). Not that there is even the slightest hint of plagiarism; it is just the time and the place.

The protagonist, Rudolf Gurtweill, is drifting through the metropolis, living

from hand to mouth, with literary ambitions but no success. He moves in a circle of Jewish as well as gentile acquaintances only some of whom are much better off than he. Chief among those is the successful lawyer Astel who pays for the group's café, wine bar and restaurant excursions. During one of those, Rudolf picks up, almost literally, Thea von Takow, a retired officer's daughter. To everybody's astonishment the small, wiry, nervy Jew and the powerful Brünhilde get married. She converts to Judaism – this seems unbelievable, yet Vogel makes it absolutely convincing. It is her only concession to wifhood – she bullies him unmercifully, mostly mentally, but also physically. She even uses their child of whom he may not be the father, to torture him with. Rudolf is literature's first house-husband; she is the breadwinner as secretary to a doctor.

The child dies, but this is not the only tragedy resulting from that misalliance. Yet greater upheavals follow, not least the fate of a Jewish girl who adores the wayward Rudolf.

A great strength of the book is the almost painterly description of Vienna in all its moods. But, above all, we 'survivors' cannot read it without the knowledge of what was to come. One has the feeling that it lurks around every corner and yet the writer and his characters can scarcely have had even an inkling of it.

By contrast, *The Lüneburg Variation*, which also had its beginning and its end in Vienna, is not a *Traumnovelle* but a *Schachnovelle*. It is a short tale and bizarrely mixes the memory of the Holocaust with an obsession for the game of chess.

It has been said that this novella can be read by people who know nothing about chess; I would say that a knowledge of and interest in, the game, even as rudimentary as mine, are a help. Essentially it plots a duel to the death, after the war, between an extermination-camp grandee and a young Jewish genius – on the chessboard.

In the camp the chess-obsessed murderer offered the lives of prisoners as prizes. In the course of this tautly and skilfully written work, his passion for the game deprives the Nazi of his mask of benevolent businessman and he becomes his own executioner in his beautiful Vienna garden. □ *JR*



Letters to the Editor

IGNAZ BUBIS

Sir - I read your obituary with considerable dismay. The choice of words and the implied criticism are unacceptable. The AJR should have gone out of its way to write an obit of this outstanding leader, who set an example to all who feel German-Jewish reconciliation to be one of the most important goals of the new German democracy. To talk about, as you do, of "the child of Ostjuden", "a strong lad", who "astonishingly, chose to settle in Frankfurt" shows great prejudice. It also shows ignorance of the traditions of deeply religious Jews that burial in Israel is something everybody hopes for but only few can manage. That Bubis had been strengthened in his wish to be buried in Israel by the outrageous attacks on him by the German writer Walser and the politician Dohnanyi, is not surprising, because it has been the most unpleasant event since the end of the war in Germany. You had also invited Mr Dillman to write an appreciation of Bubis and it is a first-class piece, but it was not made clear that it referred to Bubis.

It appears that you are much more taken in by the late Alan Clark. There is no reason whatsoever to publish a piece on Alan Clark, a great admirer of Hitler. He has no place in your publication.

London NW8

Peter Galliner

Longsuffering in the face of gratuitous brickbats I pass over the first paragraph in silence. As to the second, the Jewish Chronicle recently devoted half a page to the US politician Pat Buchanan's denunciation of Roosevelt as a warmonger. Alan Clark and Churchill formed an almost exact British parallel. Ed.

'NO RESCUE' POLICY

Sir - Anthony Eden commented on the 1944 American rescue plan: "If we object, we run the risk of being held up by the War Refugee Board as obstacles to a humanitarian measure which would probably save many Jewish lives. If we merely acquiesce, we allow the Government to get the credit for a piece of rescue work which critics will say should have been attempted long ago. If we, too, agree to remit money to the

International Red Cross, we may be committed to a relaxation of our financial blockade... but providing the enemy with foreign currency may increase his power of resistance and so ultimately cause more suffering than will be relieved."

In a minute dated 1 September 1944, Eden's head of the Southern Department, AR Drew, complained: "In my opinion a disproportionate amount of time is wasted in dealing with these wailing Jews" (PRO FO 371/42817/16). My book *The Unrelenting Conflict: Britain, Balfour & Betrayal*, gives a full account of these policies and will be published early in the new year.

Poole

Sidney Sugarman

Dorset

ISRAEL - WARTS AND ALL

Sir - Nearly sixty years ago two hundred of the last refugees to escape from Nazi-occupied Europe - my parents among them - died when the *Patria* was blown up in Haifa harbour.

This was just one of the many bloody incidents that led to the creation of the State of Israel. Despite all these sacrifices Israel has not turned into the ideal state of our Zionist vision.

The reasons for this are manifold. After the first decade of statehood the influence of Central European Liberals like Pinhas Ruthenberg and Gideon Hausner gave way to that of the East Europeans, Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Zalman Rubashov, etc, with their background in Tsarist Russian and Pilsudski's Poland. Then there was the obscurantist influence of the rabbis. Thirdly - with Rabin and now Barak - we have political leaders reared in the undemocratic environment of the army. Fourthly, there are second generation Sephardi politicians who come from the *bakshish* culture and grew up here under conditions of almost criminal negligence.

No wonder Israeli cabinet ministers lack a sense for proper administration, democratic procedure and honourable behaviour.

My observations will probably not go down well with the Editor, who - probably from a mistaken sense of guilt over

still living comfortably in the Diaspora - tries to justify everything that is done over here.

Kiryat-Shmonah
Israel

Fedor Schon

NOT QUITE AT HOME

Sir - I read the three excellent articles by Anthony Grenville on the development of a community identity among the German-speaking refugees, with great interest. However, adaptation to British life has not always been quite as easy as he seems to suggest. After more than 60 years in this country, many former refugees still do not feel entirely at home. They have stayed here only because they have nowhere else to go.

Even members of the Second Generation, of whom I am one, who were born in this country and have lived here all our lives, are treated with a certain reserve, even hostility, by the native British population, because we are obviously "different".

The Anglo-Jewish community, for the reasons outlined in Dr Grenville's articles, has little appeal for us.

This has resulted in the formation of groups such as the Association of Children of Jewish Refugees and the Second Generation Network.

London N3

John Levy

VARIETIES OF XENOPHOBIA

Sir - There are numerous arguments for keeping out of the Euro-zone. That has nothing to do with fear of Germany, still less loathing of the United States.

They include: the loss of British independence explicit in a common currency; the disability of smaller, not larger, self governing units; the absence of a shared political culture between Britain and continental Europe; the track record and cost of the EU to date etc, etc. The federalists have failed to make a convincing case for handing over our admittedly imperfect democracy to an assortment of remote Pan-European cliques.

Bath

DC Kernek (2nd generation)

Somerset

Sir - Allow me to congratulate you on your excellent September leader, but I take issue with your correspondent, Eric Alexander. In fact I would draw the exact opposite conclusion. Writing on the day of the regrettable Austrian election result, Mr Alexander is surely right: there are

neo-Nazi elements, not just in Germany and Austria, but elsewhere.

It is precisely against their gaining influence that the EU can protect. Of course it should be more transparent, but the same applies to the UK. An independent UK would be helpless in the unlikely event of the Far Right gaining power in Germany. The EU, on the other hand, by taking power from national governments, can substantially neutralise their evil influence. The neo-fascists have just about enough members in the European Parliament to form a "group", but are ignored by the democratic majority.

It is unfortunately a historic truth that the EU started as a market, originally in coal and steel. To be meaningful a market has to have a level base and that means a common currency. This does not impair the tax-raising powers of the constituent governments.

London NW4

Francis Deutsch

CHAMBERLAIN'S CLONES

Sir - The only thing that has been achieved in Kosovo is continued hatred and Albanians now killing Serbians. They are six of one and half a dozen of the other. Remember that the Serbs were our only allies in that region 60 years ago.

Leicester

Henry P Mortimer

CZECH SCROLLS

Sir - Two years ago you reported the Czech Scrolls conference which Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue were hosting.

Since then, work has progressed both in our "Scroll towns" of Kolin and Trebon and at the State archives in Prague. We now have for Kolin a database of births since 1931, marriages since 1900 and deaths for the periods 1864-80 and 1938-49 and also the June 1942 transport list.

For Trebon, we have copied the indices of the births, marriages and deaths registers covering 1892-1942 and the transport list to Terezin in April 1942.

If any readers are interested in this information, they can contact me on (01923) 774637.

Oaklands Gate

TS Crosby

Green Lane, Northwood,
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SECOND GENERATION

Sir - I believe that in order to understand the aims of the "second generation" we need to know the meaning of the term.

Does it mean the "second generation of Holocaust survivors", or the "second generation of refugees", or the "second generation of the AJR"?

Oakhill Park, London NW3

Herta Reik

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Sir - In August our family spent a week in my birthplace, Ulm. Our guide was a very knowledgeable young woman who works for the *KZ Gedenkstätte* at Ulm. She is one of the young Germans who give one hope for the future. We were received by the Mayor who is very interested in the Jewish problem, specially now, as there are many Russian Jews in Ulm. We also visited nearby Laupheim, whose cemetery is tended by a German who is a student of Jewish history and gives all his spare time to restoring grave stones and helping in the Christian/Jewish Museum.

Wembley Park

Ruth Young-Laupheimer

Middx

THE UNTRANSLATABLE INSCRIPTION

Sir - Otto Hutter misremembers the Nazi slogan (which still rings in his ears) as *Ein Land, Ein Volk, Ein Führer*.

The correct version is quoted in Mr Schön's letter in the same issue, is *Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Führer*.

London NW9

Fred Dunston

ORPHANED FOREVER

Sir - In connection with your review of my book *Heimweh/Homesick* (October issue) would you mention that appreciation is due to Dr Beate Hörr who not only selected and translated the poems but was also the editor and in charge of production of the book.

Peterborough

Lotte Kramer

Lotte Kramer will be reading at the 'Voice Box', Festival Hall, 18 November at 7.30. Concession tickets are £3.

NO MENTION OF FESTIVALS

Sir - It strikes me as odd that but for a brief announcement in your September issue you made no mention of any of our great festivals occurring at this season. After all, *AJR Information* as the name implies, is intended for Jews. It almost seems to me that in your view the "Holocaust" is the only event which binds us together.

Also why don't you check on the spelling of foreign place names and phrases? Recent errors include Vakova (instead of Vukovar), Sabenica (Srebrenica) Ustaches (Ustase) and *del amore (dell'amore)*.

London NW3

Mrs M Stern

BON MOTS

Sir - A long time ago I came across this retort to "How odd of God to choose the Jews": "But not so odd as those who choose a Jewish God and spurn the Jews".

London NW3

Michael Hellman

Sir - Very many years ago, as a young child in Palestine, I saw a competition to find the best answer to "How odd of God to choose the Jews". The winner was "Why odd of God? His son was one!"

London NW11

Hannah Toeg

AUTHOR!

Sir - Unfortunately I cannot help you establish the author of the German nonsense verse *Dunkel war's der Mond schien belle* but I do know the author of the translation: - Dark it was the moon shone brightening/ when a car as quick as lightning/ slowly round the corner drove. Inside people sat in silence/ standing up in fierce debate/ as a shot dead little rabbit/ on a sandbank had a skate!

Sutton Coldfield

Werner Abraham

W Midlands

Sir - Like many such nonsense verses, loved by children and propagated by word of mouth, the ditty has no known author and several variants.

The Queen's College, Oxford

SS Praver

50 YEARS AGO

THE 'HYPHEN'

Over singularly bad coffee and sticky buns, the idea of the 'Hyphen' was born. The initial meeting was followed by others, each growing in size and noise. At last some 15 debators heatedly and vigorously aired their views around an AJR table in the encouraging - and yet mildly restraining - presence of Dr Rosenstock.

The finding of a name for the Club also caused considerable headache. But eventually somebody struck on 'The Hyphen' as our generation is obviously an 'in-between' one.

By far the most passionate complaint is 'Too many girls!' - the one thing the Committee is not empowered to amend.

□ *AJR Information, November 1949*

AJR Reports

Brighton & Hove

Ellen Rosen gave the Sarid group and its new members a fascinating account of the five years she spent in Burma with her husband, there to work for the World Health Organisation between 1962 and 1967. At the time there were many Israelis who were also working on a number of aid projects, but following the change of government to a Maoist régime – still in power today – the presence of foreigners was discouraged and they had to go. □ *Frank Goldberg*

Madeleine Joyce will recount her experiences in the French Resistance to the group on Monday 15th November at 10.45am.

Northern

Not even the thousands of runners taking part in the Manchester Marathon could prevent an excellent attendance by the members to hear self-confessed opera buff Aubrey Kreike talk about the composer Puccini. Treated to an erudite history of his life and works, Aubrey, ably assisted by his wife Esther, played recordings from several of Puccini's operas in a wide variety of moods, many not well known, but all quite sublime.

The opportunity was taken to explain particular aspects of the form requested by claimants of the Swiss Humanitarian Fund □ *Werner Lachs*

South London

David Rothenberg, Vice-Chairman and Hon Treasurer of the AJR, spoke to South London members on the complex and sometime baffling subject of the Claims Conference, of which he is a member. He explained in some detail the overriding of the 1992 deadline for claimants of properties in the former East Germany (see page 13 *AJR Information* October 1999) and also discussed the five qualifying classes under which claims could be made on the Swiss Humanitarian Fund. □ *Ruth Leggett*

At SLAJR's meeting on 11th November at Prentis Road Synagogue, Ronald Channing, the AJR's newly appointed Head of Media, Development and Communal Relations, will discuss the work of the AJR today and how it may continue to serve in the future.

Pinner

A psychologist with special expertise in counselling victims of the Holocaust, AJR Management Committee member Gaby Glassman was the guest of Pinner AJR. She explained that while survivors may apparently have been successful in coping with complex psychological burdens, such as abandonment, fear or guilt, similar problems could well surface among members of the succeeding generation unless correctly and promptly addressed. The most significant factor was, in all probability, the level of communication – or lack of it – between the generations.

Gaby Glassman's talk evoked an immense amount of interest which extended through question time and well into tea. □ *Walter Weg*

Jenny Nemko will be talking to the group about the work of a Jewish broadcaster at the next meeting at Pinner Synagogue on Thursday 4th November at 2pm.

Wessex

Sixty years to the day when Germany invaded Poland, members of Wessex AJR heard Jim Kowacyk explain how he – then 13-year-old Danek – managed to survive many round-ups and arrests for three years before being taken to Germany as a slave labourer. Later he learned that his parents had been betrayed by Polish neighbours and murdered, probably by Volksdeutsche. His own luck held when a sympathetic Polish doctor destroyed a file revealing his Jewish ancestry and a certain death.

Pearl and Ralph Dale acted as hosts and served a most-enjoyable tea. □ *George Ettinger*

West Midlands

Walter Woyda, an AJR member from London, delighted the group by entertaining them, appropriately enough, with tunes from the new hit show 'The Rothschilds'. The well-attended meeting took place in the group's usual venue, on the premises of Birmingham Progressive Synagogue in Sheepcote Street. □ *Edgar Glaser*

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The Book of Snobs

In one of her stories, Vita Sackville-West described a maid simply as 'the drudge'. In a similar vein her husband Harold Nicholson would refer to dim-witted people as *bedint* (after the German *bedient*, i.e. in domestic service). The youthful Evelyn Waugh walked miles to have his letters postmarked NW3 instead of (downmarket) NW7. George Orwell dubbed the thriller writers of the Thirties collectively the 'snobbery with violence' school.

The scribbling classes' deeply ingrained veneration for snobs surfaced once again in the quality papers' obituaries for Alan Clark – the most loathsome figure in British politics since Sir Oswald Mosley (and, possibly, Enoch Powell).

The *Times* editor Peter Stothard, a classicist, called Clark 'a Renaissance man'. The *Independent's* Alan Watkins thought it worth his while to point out that Clark had merely repeated – and not actually coined – the gibe about (the *nouveauroche*) Michael Heseltine having had to 'buy his own furniture'. He also quoted Jane Clark's comment on the Harkness (mother-and-two-daughters) brouhaha: 'If you bed people of the below-stairs class they go to the papers, don't they?'

Watkins likewise emphasised that at Pratt's, the exclusive St James club, Clark would order treacle tart not only for his first, but also for his second and even his third course (!).

On the same theme *Daily Telegraph* editor Charles Moore recalled that in restaurants Clark, spurning all dishes printed on the menu, would devise one specially for himself and insist that the kitchen produce it.

After these mindblowing banalities Moore described Clark as fascinated by war 'because it stilled the steady tap of the counting house'. This mindset made him call himself a Nazi and not a Fascist, on the grounds that (in Clark's own words) 'Fascists are shopkeepers looking after their dividends'. Readers may remember Werner Sombart's definition of the Great War as one between *Händler* and *Helden*.

The deceased had, of course, been immensely wealthy. What's more, he owed his wealth – one blushes to reveal it – to the fact that Lord Kenneth (*Civilisation*), Clark's father, had, just like Michael Heseltine's, been in trade. In other words, the Nazi supersnob's grandsire turns out to have been a dividend-counting cotton manufacturer in Paisley, Scotland. □ RG

... Viewpoint ...

London's pride

Noël Coward encapsulated the wartime spirit when he penned 'London Pride has been handed down to us'. Myth or no, pride helped London's civilian population survive devastating nightly air-raids with minimal protection against direct attack. While the authorities did their darndest to prevent ordinary Londoners find refuge in the deep stations of the Underground, public pressure forced them to open overnight, creating Hogarthian scenes of crowded platforms on which thousands lived, slept and entertained themselves.

No Londoner was surprised that his great city boasted its own government with majestic headquarters on the south bank of the Thames, the London County Council, later enlarged to include the urbanised areas of Middlesex and Surrey in a Greater London Council. Only the anachronistic presence of a Lord Mayor, whose bailiwick was limited to the area within the square mile of the medieval city, confused native and foreigner alike.

The GLC and its Labour administration, provocatively led by Ken Livingstone, was swept away by an ob-

sessive Conservative government. Yet its lowering of Underground fares and carpark charges, which took a myriad of cars off the roads, counterbalanced possibly overgenerous support for fringe minority causes.

Now it's London's chance to rise phoenix-like and reassert its position as one of the world's great metropolises; a city in which to live a satisfying lifestyle, bring up a family, travel on efficient, safe and inexpensive transport, afford theatres, museums, art galleries, attend universities, colleges and schools, enjoy concert halls, restaurants, pubs and clubs, parks and unrivalled shopping, not to mention the big wheel.

Well-worn politicians contend for the accolade of London's new Mayor: doughty opportunist Lord Archer, vacillating-wanting-the-job Frank Dobson, Hampstead's Glenda Jackson, ethnic vote-catching Trevor Phillips and Susan Kramer for the Lib-Dems. But very much obscuring their view is the populist Ken Livingstone. Will it be he who confounds them all by returning to restore London's tarnished pride?

□ Ronald Channing

PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

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Afternoon entertainment programme –

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1999

Mon 1	KARD & GAMES KLUB	Sun 21	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
Tue 2	Amanda Palmer, soprano	Mon 22	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Wed 3	Sue Kennett, soprano, accompanied by Gordon Weaver, piano	Tue 23	HOUNSLOW COMMUNITY OPERA
Thur 4	Nicola Smedley accompanied by Jan Cunningham, piano	Wed 24	MEMORIES LANE SINGING GROUP
Sun 7	Helen Mignano accompanied by Sylvia Cohen, piano	Thur 25	Robert Lowe, bass, accompanied by Bobby Marks, piano
Mon 8	KARD & GAMES KLUB	Sun 28	Ann Kenton-Barker & Basil Taylor, baritone, accompanied by Margaret Gibbs, piano
Tue 9	The Geoffrey Whitworth Duo	Mon 29	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Wed 10	Paul and Sinikka Coleman	Tue 30	THE GEOFFREY STRUM & HELEN BLAKE DUO
Thur 11	Lucy White and Juliet Davey	Wed 1	Sylvia Eaves accompanied by Margaret Eaves, piano
Sun 14	DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT	Thur 2	Alla Kravchuk, soprano, accompanied by Simon Townly, piano
Mon 15	KARD & GAMES KLUB	Sun 5	TEA DANCE – Live Music by Shelly Weldon
Tue 16	Primrose Powell accompanied by Andrew Wells, piano		
Wed 17	LUNCHEON CLUB		
Thur 18	Guyathrie Peiris accompanied by William Patrick		

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays

Durst. The AJR would like to extend their best wishes to Fred Durst on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Deaths

Ballheimer. Rudolph Ballheimer died 8 September. Much missed by wife Margaret, brother Fred, children and grandchildren.

Graff. Werner Graff born 1 March 1907, died 24 February 1999. A leader of the Berlin DJJB (*Deutsch Juedischer Jugendbund*), during the 1920's and 1930's. He will be remembered for his integrity, intelligence, love of family and commitment to many organisations in Australia, the country of his adoption. Sadly missed by his daughter Dorothy and countless friends.

Heymann. Gilli Heymann née Oppenheim. Born Berlin 1925. Beloved wife of Klaus. Mother of Anthony and Tim. Grandmother of Daniel, Adam, Anita, Theo and Joanna. A valiant and loving heart. Her labours truly done.

Levi. Franz Levi died peacefully 28 September. Greatly missed by Trude, Jonathan, Marina and friends.

Stewart. Alice (Litzi) Stewart died on 15 September 1999. Deeply mourned by son Roger and nephew Tom.

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

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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

Brighton & Hove: Fausta Shelton
(Sussex Region) 01273 688 226

Wessex: Ralph Dale
(Bournemouth) 01202 762 270

WHO'S WHO IN THE AJR

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Gordon Greenfield Head of Finance
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Ruth Finestone Social Worker
Helena Reid Social Worker
Wendi Wilson Social Worker
Estelle Brookner Social Services Secretary

Richard Grunberger Editor AJR Information
Andrea Goodmaker Departmental Secretary & Advertising Co-ordinator

Agi Alexander Welfare Rights Adviser
Norah Gittins Senior Social Worker
Amanda Clark Volunteers Co-ordinator
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Renée Lee Assistant Manager
Susie Kaufman Catering Manager
Joanne Fresco Receptionist/Secretary
Joan Kupler Day Centre Assistant
Doreen Frankel Sunday Organiser
Sandra Lessman MoW Assistant
Jeff Heywood Head Chef
Ya'akov Azulay Assistant Chef
Mary Matovu Kitchen Assistant
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Phone Susie Kaufman on 0171-328 0208

for details and assessment interview.

Meals can also be collected from 15 Cleve Road, Mondays-Thursdays.

Art Notes

The issue of exile and dispersal links eight artists including **Hans Feibusch** and **Fred Feigl** in a new exhibition of paintings, drawings and prints at the **John Denham Gallery** in *West Hampstead* from November 14. Although these refugee artists' work rarely reflects the emotions triggered by exile, they were all touched by war as is clear from the derelict imagery of derelict bomb sites and battle zones among the subject matter.

Such personal turmoil as war and exile may be absent from the vocabulary of British artist **Prunella Clough**, popular winner of the £30,000 1999 Jerwood painting prize, the highest prize awarded to a single artist, but the opposite sense of roots, of being centred in the land, is clearly manifest in her work. When, in introducing her, the novelist AS Byatt, described the language and grammar of art as being incomparable with that of literature, she was expressing a view that the subtlety and individuality of perception cannot be measured in quantitative terms. Clough's oil paintings contain a private language that seems beyond emotion. The granular and sometimes visceral images she conveys, are born of landscape – of leaves, of bird shapes which probably had no bird-like genesis in the artist's mind – of a sense of sharing, of volume and a contrasting weightlessness.

Despite a major exhibition recently at *Kettle's Yard* in *Cambridge*, there has never been a true retrospective of Clough's works. This could be because of her aversion to past references, to an acceptance of her status and probably even to the sense of completion itself. The vitality and freshness of her work indicates that she is constantly on the move, explorative, zestful and strangely innocent. Yet to define her work is to limit it. She sets you a task of personal discovery, with no narrative clues to guide you.

Clough often conveys a feeling of the earth and its fruitfulness. *Creeper* 1997 is a leafy, ruby red canvas with the typical Clough mystery signature – a tiny blue and orange squared-off grille. What does it suggest? A personal prison? A window of escape? A brilliance of clashing colours shattering the harmony of the main subject? Or is the window the artist's eye

from which she has total control over her perception of us – the viewers?

At 80 years old, Prunella Clough has the rare gift of being able to see something eternally for the first time.

Regularly shown by **Annely Juda Fine Art** in Dering Street, W1, Clough's work is held in major collections, including London's **Tate Gallery** and New York's **Museum of Modern Art**.

The Art of Bloomsbury, sponsored by prudential, opens this month at the **Tate Gallery**, claiming to be the first comprehensive exhibition of the lives of the early century artists, writers and intellectuals who were known as the Bloomsbury set, led by Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant and Roger Fry. Until the end of January.

The National Portrait Gallery has collaborated with Sainsbury's to capture the vital images of the last 100 years in **Faces of the Century**. Open until the end of January.

Images from India opens on November 24 at **Browse and Darby** in Cork Street, London W1, showing recent work by the painter-traveller, Anthony Fry. Until December 23.

The Metal Mirror opens this month at the **British Museum** with an exhibition of coin-photographs by the New Jersey artist, Stephen Sack. The works were derived from numismatic collections of the British Museum and the Cabinet des Médailles in Brussels. Until December 5.

Lapada – the Association of Art and Antique dealers – has published an updated edition of its pocket handbook, *Buying antiques in Britain*. Available from Lapada on 0171 823 3522. **Gloria Tessler**

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

What's in a name?

In response to Herta Reik's letter (*AJR Information, September 1999*), Second Generation is a term I vigorously avoid when referring to my contemporaries, the sons and daughters of refugees from Nazi Europe. Even when applied to those who, tragically, lost their grandparents in the Shoah, it would appear to me to be a misnomer.

We are the first generation to be born in the UK and the first generation to suffer the indirect rather than direct experiences of Nazi persecution, as opposed to the eyewitness generations – a

term which encompasses both our parents', grandparents' and for some, great-grandparents' contemporaries. The term Second Generation would appear to disregard the fact that, among the 65,000 Jewish Refugees who were granted entry into Britain before the war, many were of our grandparents' generation. Who, after all, were the founders of the AJR?

If the term is to be applied exclusively to children of Kindertransportees and Camp Survivors, then it would still, in my view, be ill-chosen. First, it appears to ignore those of our parents' generation whose own parents did survive even in this context – a tiny minority, it is true, but one that should not be disregarded in the language we choose to use. Secondly, the children of Kindertransportees and Camp Survivors were not exposed to direct persecution or torture, but were the first generation to experience the traumas of their parents' (and grandparents') generation indirectly. This is not to belittle whatever anxieties and anguish my contemporaries have felt and still may feel, but an acknowledgement that our post-war experiences are distinct from those of our parents.

I myself am active in the Association of Children of Jewish Refugees, formed in 1985 before the term Second Generation became common currency. While this name, too, is not perfect, we debated long and hard to arrive at a terminology which at least was accurate in its description of its members as a whole.

Caroline Salinger

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HOUSE DOCTOR

Computers in medicine

Many patients bemoan the fact that their doctor spends time looking at the computer, not at them. I shall attempt to explain why computers are increasingly being used in general practice in preference to written records.

Seventy or eighty years of written records are difficult to work with, not least because of doctors' handwriting! Among a huge quantity of letters and notes, even recovering five-year-old documents can be difficult. Computerised records not only enable such data to be easily located, but enable medical problems from previous years to be highlighted. This requires a constant input of information, often during the consultation.

The computer also acts as an *aide-mémoire* to remind the doctor that a

particular test is due and can draw the doctor's attention to allergies and drug incompatibilities when prescribing. It also helps remind patients receiving repeat prescriptions to visit their doctor for a review of their medication.

Information about particular illnesses can be loaded onto the system and patients can be provided with print-outs of treatment guidelines or special diets. In addition, the Government is linking all Health Service computer systems to enable hospital appointments to be made from the GP's surgery and results to be transmitted back directly.

While the computer helps the doctor to provide good care, no-one has yet suggested that he will be replaced by computers and robots!

□ Dr Max Bayer

Regretfully, personal correspondence cannot be entered into

SEARCH NOTICES

Erica Sitte from Vienna sought by her friend Helly Prochnik from Buenos Aires. Information please to F Hogan 0181 340 4155.

Family Pam, Neunkirchen, Austria, owned a paper mill and were the town's leading Jewish family. They included Adele, Bertha, Cecilie, Erik, Ernot, Julie, Max and Stephanie Pam who emigrated to Australia in 1938. Please contact Gerhard Milchram, Curator, Jewish Museum Vienna, Palais Eskeles, Dorotheergasse 11, A-1010 Vienna.

Budapester Orpheum Gesellschaft. Wer kennt Mitglieder, Autoren, Komponisten, Musiker oder Nachfahren der berühmten 'Budapester' aus Wien. Wer kennt zum Beispiel Louis Taufstein, Otto Tausig oder Franz Modl? Ich suche biographisches Material. Tel. Georg Wacks on 01932 85 8332.

Leo Less from Berlin, arrived UK during 1940s. Please call Jo Rogger on 0181 346 7530.

Walter Oppenheim, previously of Johannesburg, is being sought by Ernst Simon now of Toronto, Canada. In first instance call Herbert Goldschmidt on 0171 435 8880.

Edward Gutman, born 1915, father Moshe Isaacovich, mother Nadel Laura (Lea), believed to be living in England. Being sought by daughter of the late Efim (Haim) Gutman, Ukraine, 1914-1974, Angela Tarnovskaya, formerly of Kiev, now

living at Rehov Nahal Katlab 9/12, Ramat Bet-Shemesh, Israel.

Elsa Herzog (1876-1964). Biographical information on Jewish fashion journalist Elsa Herzog, who emigrated from Berlin to London in 1939 where she lived until 1964, being sought by German journalism student. Please contact Micaela Thimm, Kirchhörder Kopf 13, 44229 Dortmund, Germany. Tel/Fax: 01049 231 73 2492.

Lucie Schachne-Kozuszek/Lucie Kaye, born January 1918, Berlin, daughter born 1944, moved to UK after WWII, editor-in-chief of Berlin's Jewish magazine *Der Weg* from 1949. Being sought by post graduate research student. Please contact Jael Geis, Sonnenallee 137, D 12059 Berlin, Germany.

Karoline Schwartz, niece of Leo Werner (both formerly from Vienna), being sought as possible legatee. Contact Brian Tobin, 3428 Motor Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90034, USA. Tel: 310 836 9076.

Kurt Schmeltzer (1888-1972) and Werner Türk (1901-?), German émigré writers who lived in UK during 1930s and 40s where they died. Both wrote children's books. Compiler of bibliography of German children's literature written in exile 1933-1950 is seeking information. Zlata Phillips, University at Albany, 135 Western Avenue, Albany New York 12222. Tel: 518/442 5110 □

HOMECARE SERVICE

The AJR is pleased to offer members the benefit of a Homecare Service scheme

The service is intended to help members remain in their own homes

Financial assistance is available where needed.

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The Mozart House

Stories by Holocaust survivors tend to follow a pattern: there are descriptions of a large and close-knit Jewish family whose members are almost invariably rich and cultured. There are memories of travel to fashionable spas like Bad Gastein and Karlsbad and happy holidays under a cloudless sky. Then along comes Hitler - and all change. One wonders whether distance has sometimes lent enchantment to the view.

I can claim no such felicity. My parents, though from large families, were isolated from them. Only my mother's sister lived near enough to visit. I have since discovered a bevy of lawyers, academics, a prosperous tobacco-merchant, a famous photographer and a member of the Austrian Parliament among my distant relatives (even one who survived the war in Vienna), but they were remote and I never knew them. My parents were relatively poor, so the only holidays I can remember are a day by the Danube or a trip up the river to Budapest. I lived in Vienna, but the triangle between our flat, my school and the Inner City was practically all I knew. I had heard of mountains, but never seen one; I had heard of Salzburg, but never been there. So I was fulfilling a childhood wish when last December I took the train from Vien-

na's Westbahnhof.

Salzburg is tucked away between mountains which surround it on all sides. The main street is flanked by shops selling Mozartkugel and souvenirs. At one point a hoarding offers tours of the town and its surroundings (including the Berghof of evil memory). Further on the visitor reaches a square, on one side of which is the Mozart House. Stories of Mozart's pauper funeral hardly prepare you for its size and splendour. You have to remind yourself that it is the home of Leopold, the father and not his more famous son.

Once inside visitors are given a handset which connects with various receptors in the rooms and conveys information about their contents and about the Mozart family. In the entrance-hall a model of the house is the only object one is allowed to photograph. In the large salon are an organ, a harpsichord and Mozart's own piano. It is very small - has only five keys and this makes it all the more awesome that such splendid works could derive from such modest instruments.

Round the wall are pictures of local dignitaries who needed to be placated by Leopold, who had to make a living as a Kapellmeister. One is of the Prince-Bishop who was Mozart's employer, which shows how the Church, politics

and music were intertwined. There are also pictures of the young Wolfgang and his sister Nannerl performing at the piano. He is dressed sumptuously in a scarlet coat with braided edging. A touching portrait is a later one of the family - father, brother and sister - with the mother, now dead, in a cameo in the middle. Around the room in glass cases are some original manuscripts and letters. A particularly moving one is from Wolfgang written after attending his mother's deathbed which begins "Now grieve with me.." There are recordings of excerpts from famous compositions which you can hear through the handset, one of them a ravishing aria from *Il Re Pastore* which brings tears to the eyes.

Perhaps the most interesting exhibit is a large wallmap of Europe. At the press of a button it lights up the tracks of the Mozart itineraries for that year. Wherever there was a court or a likely patron, whether it be Paris, London, Prague or Milan - the Mozarts were to be found. Often the journeys had to be made over bumpy roads and the stops at squalid inns. On one journey young Wolfgang was so exhausted that his father had to carry his sleeping son to a sofa and wrap him in his coat. Even genius had a price-ticket of sheer slog!

□ Martha Blend

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - NOVEMBER 1999

- | | | | |
|-------|---|--------------------|---|
| 1-14 | The Armenian Genocide: exhibition, Wiener Library | University, 5.15pm | Lucie Skeaping, Howard Cooper, Spike Milligan, Stephen Robins. 11am-10pm, Box Office 0171 960 4242 |
| Mon 1 | Prof Leon Yudkin: Life & Death of Yiddish Literature in the USSR. The Case of Peretz Markish. Club 43, 8pm | Mon 15 | 'Remnants' - living after the Holocaust, a play by Henry Greenspan. Camden Centre, Euston Road NW1, £5, 7pm. Wiener Library |
| Tue 2 | Antony Lerman (Director JPR): Antisemitism at the end of the 20th century. Sussex University, 5.15pm | Mon 15 | 'Wer schießt aus Liebe'. Gabriele Tergits Gerichtsreportagen (IN GERMAN). Jens Brüning, Club 43, 8pm |
| Tue 2 | Dr Elisabeth Maxwell: Jewish-Christian Relations at the Millennium. British WIZO, 107 Gloucester Place W1, £6, 7.30pm | Tue 16 | Artistic Responses to the Holocaust, with artist Ralph Freeman. Sussex University, 5.15pm |
| Wed 3 | The Jewish Dickens, Israel Zangwill: Jewish Museum, Camden (3 Nov-14 March), £3 | Sun 21 | Melanie Phillips (Sunday Times): Hugo Gryn Lecture 1999. 'Marriage, Morality & the Family'. SOAS, London University, £5, 4.30pm. Booking with the Wiener Library |
| Sun 7 | Evening of Music & Comedy: Eleanor Bron, Barry Cryer & others. Karen Morris Memorial Trust. Old Vic Theatre, 7.30pm. Tickets £10-£32.50 from 0181 445 3380 | Mon 22 | The Dardanelles Campaign: Herbert Malinow. Club 43, 8pm |
| Mon 8 | Berlin Since WWII: G Holm. Club 43, 8pm | Tue 23 | Monica Lowenberg: German-Jewish Teenagers in Germany & Britain in 1930s. Sussex University, 5.15pm |
| Tue 9 | Dorothea McEwan: Holdings of the Warburg Institute. Sussex | Sun 28 | Jewish Culture Day on the South Bank: Gregori Schechter, |

December

- Sun 5 **Richard Grunberger:** Integration of Continental Jews into Anglo-Jewish Society. Meretz UK, 37a Broadhurst Gardens, £4, 8pm

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

- Club '43,** at Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254 360
Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1. 0171 636 7247
Jewish Museum, Camden Town, 129/131 Albert Street, NW1 7NB. Tel: 0171 284 1997 and at Sternberg Centre
University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies. David Groiser Tel/Fax: 01273 877 169

Science Notebook

The most famous scientists in the world

Whom would you regard as the greatest scientist who ever lived? Many people would nominate Albert Einstein for this role. However, it might be more difficult to decide the top six. Channel Four have had to make this choice in their forthcoming TV series on 'Six experiments that changed the world'. These half-hour programmes should begin to be screened on successive Sunday evenings during the winter schedules. Each programme will portray the chosen scientist's life and scientific work in an interesting way, in some cases with interviews of living descendants.

The scientists they have chosen are Gregor Mendel (1822-1884), the Austrian botanist and monk whose painstaking experiments on peas laid the basis for our understanding of heredity; Galileo Galilei (1562-1642), the Italian scientist whose

support for the Copernican theory that the planets revolve around the sun and not the earth brought him before the Inquisition on charges of heresy (he was not rehabilitated by the Catholic Church until 1992); Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), the English scientist who enunciated the three laws of motion and the general equation of gravitation as well as making discoveries in optics and mathematics; Michael Faraday (1791-1867), the English physicist and chemist whose experiments led to the laws of electrolysis and the invention of the transformer and the electric motor which, in time, made possible the generation of electricity for everyone; Marie Curie (1867-1934), the Polish-French scientist who discovered radium and other radioactive elements and received two Nobel Prizes, first in physics and then in chemistry and, of course, Albert Einstein (1879-1955), the German-Swiss-American mathematical physicist best known for his theories of relativity, the special theory dealing with the speed of light and the general theory with gravity.

A formidable list. However, it should not be difficult to produce another list of equally illustrious scientists who, too,

have transformed our view of the world. Suggestions are welcome! What is important to recognise is that really great discoveries depend not only on careful observation and experimentation, but even more on the interpretation of the results. Only then can we discern the underlying laws of nature. Moreover, it is a sobering thought that the work of many now famous scientists was initially met with indifference or outright hostility.

Mendel's work lay unrecognised for many years and Einstein's Nobel Prize was given, not for relativity theory which was not understood at the time, but for his dramatic application of Max Planck's hitherto unappreciated quantum theory. And Galileo is a prime example of a man whose conclusions, though based on good evidence, were anathema to the prevailing orthodoxy. It has sometimes been said that original contributions to knowledge are first ridiculed as untrue, later criticised as not being of any practical use and finally, when the discovery has received general recognition, there are always cynics who say it was not really original and had been anticipated by the early Greeks! □ Prof Michael Spiro

Through a dark lens brightly

Photography began replacing portrait painting as early as the mid-nineteenth century, but the development and use of the camera which followed in the ensuing hundred years made photography "a major factor in the history of civilisation", according to Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith in an address presented by Leo Baeck College.

The Leica, manufactured and introduced in the 1920s by Ernest Leitz of Wetzlar in Germany, which pioneered the use of 35mm film, can claim to be the world's first truly modern camera. Among serious photographers it soon earned a reputation second to none for its compact design, quality of construction and high-definition interchangeable lenses. Being light, portable and ready for immediate use, the Leica brought a revolution to the whole process of taking photographs.

Propaganda chief Goebbels was quick to realise the Leica's potential, a modern, precision instrument and 'glory' of Nazi Germany and insisted on its use by the press. The Leica was also ideal for espionage,

carried by the Luftwaffe on air-raids and even used by German propaganda photographers in the Warsaw Ghetto. The noted Jewish photographer Mendel Grossman also used a Leica when documenting life in the Lodz Ghetto.

Ernst Leitz, who founded the company in 1849, established a paternal concern for his employees which characterised the family's continued ownership of the firm up to and including World War II. Typically, Oscar Barnack, the Leica's designer, was taken on by Leitz though an asthmatic. As the firm's employees were exceptionally skilled workers and engineers, they were highly regarded and well paid.

Leitz's Jewish employees were no exception. With the rise of National Socialism they were protected, even given further training, before transfer to the safety of the New York branch. As a key supplier for Germany's war machine, however, Leitz had a forced labour camp attached to the factory. Incredibly, Elsie Kühn Leitz, daughter of the factory's owner, made sure that the labourers had enough food and clothing, even gaining them a measure of freedom. She also tried to help Jewish women escape to Switzerland in 1943. For these activities

she was arrested by the Gestapo and her release after three months imprisonment was achieved only after the payment of a huge bribe. □ Ronald Channing

Rabbi Smith is currently making a study of 'Leitz and the Jews' and would welcome contact with Jewish refugees who may have been helped by Leitz to leave Germany. Tel: 0181 904 8581.

Lorelei

"Die Luft ist kühl und es dunkelt
Und ruhig fließt der Rhein..."
Die Männer, die Frauen und die Kinder,
Die trieb man ins Gas hinein.

Der Rauch stieg aus den Schloten,
Der dichte, schwarze Rauch.
Er stieg hinauf zum Himmel,
Die armen Seelen auch.

Da wurden die armen Seelen
Von Männern, Frauen und Kind
Dort oben zu weissen Schwänen.
Nach Osten trug sie der Wind.

Sie flogen über das Wasser
Und über die Felder grün,
Sie flogen durch Nacht und durch
Wolken,
Bis nach Jerusalem hin.

□ Harald Brainin

Obituaries

Dr Manfred Altman

Szalzburg-born Dr Manfred Altman has died aged 87. Manfred was one of five children of the Rabbi of Trier. As a 15-year-old, he helped to found the Jewish Scouts movement in Germany.

His elder brother Alexander became successively a rabbi in Berlin, Communal Rabbi of Manchester and Professor of Jewish Philosophy at Brandeis University.

Manfred himself arrived in Britain in 1939 from Holland, where he had been employed for five years as a lawyer for a Jewish company. Here he worked for the Jewish National Fund and, in 1947, formed his own import-export business, in due course pioneering the import of textiles from Israel and forging a close connection with Marks & Spencer.

Later his efforts were largely directed towards developing the Institute of Jewish Studies at University College London. He was instrumental in helping to create four new professorships and lectureships in Jewish Studies at UCL.

He firmly believed that "his" Institute could form a bridge between the academic and wider communities and could serve as a unifying force within British Jewry.

In 1992 he was appointed an Honorary Fellow of UCL, in which his extensive family archives will now be deposited.

Through his own life, he applied himself devotedly to causes that advanced the State of Israel and the intellectual endeavours of Jewish people □

Janet Langmaid

Janet Langmaid was an Englishwoman who was closely connected with the organisations and institutes set up by refugees from Germany and Austria who came to this country. She died in her 77th year. After working for Sadler's Wells, BBC radio and television, she joined the Wiener Library as librarian, cataloguer and bibliographer and she was co-author of several of their catalogue volumes.

For many years she was also associated with *AJR Information*, acting as a translator and had begun working on the – very much needed – comprehensive index of this journal. Her connection with the London Leo Baeck Institute stretched

over many years; as a translator, a meticulous proof-reader and above all, as an indexer. With the 1976-1994 Index Volume of the Leo Baeck Institute's Year Book, she created a superb tool for the researcher.

Even when she retired to Ottery St Mary with her cats, she went on working for us. This well-educated, versatile, delightful and always cheerful woman will be greatly missed by her many friends.

□ Arnold Paucker

Bloodline

A month before Rudi Bamber's death (see obituary, February issue) he learnt that he had a half-sister Charlotte – the result of his father's pre-marital relationship with a Catholic German girl during the first World War. Charlotte was fostered from the age of two weeks by a family who were glad of the monthly payments. She only saw her real father Carl Bamberger once, when she was 16 and he gave her his portrait and told her that she had a half-brother, Rudi.

Carl Bamberger married Rudi's mother and by the mid-thirties they were running a Jewish café and family pension in the Lindenaststrasse, one of the last places where Nürnberg's Jews could gather. On Kristallnacht Rudi's father was murdered by the Nazis. Subsequently his mother obtained an agricultural student's place for Rudi who arrived in England in July 1939. The mother perished in Maidanek.

Charlotte survived the war; being only half-Jewish and female, she kept her job in an engineering firm in Nürnberg until dismissed in 1942 as a non-Aryan. After the war she married and had a daughter, Veronika, who grew up with her Jewish grandfather's portrait hanging on the wall and a sense of her mother's mission to trace her English relatives. When Charlotte had started her search for Rudi she even came to England in her sixties but still failed – not surprisingly – considering that Rudi had anglicised his name to Ralph Bamber.

After retirement Rudi began to bear witness to his sufferings at the hands of the Nazis and many will have seen him on the Timewatch TV series *The Nazis, a Warning from History*. He contacted an archivist in Nürnberg who is compiling the history of the town's Jews. The latter supplied material for an article in the

Nürnberger Nachrichten on the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht, which Veronika read.

Imagine Rudi's amazement when he received a letter from the paper to say that a reader called Veronika Breuer claimed she was his niece! At first he was shocked and incredulous, but after three long 'phone calls from Veronika, during which he heard of her mother's fruitless search, he warmed to her. She planned to visit him over Christmas '98, but Rudi died within a month of learning of her existence.

This July Veronika visited all her remaining relatives in England. I took her to Rudi's grave and she came to our house and met my sons. We could see the family likeness, the Bamberger dimple in her chin. This healing meeting came about due to Rudi's courage in bearing witness, towards the end of his life, of the terrible persecution his family had suffered. In this year leading up to the Millennium one can only be grateful to the fearless archivists of the Jews, at work even in Germany, recording their sufferings before it is too late. Who knows how many other healing reunions remain to be made?

□ Jill Bamber

'Last days of the century'

The Second Generation Trust, together with Amnesty International and the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, on Sunday 5th December at London's Piccadilly Theatre, are presenting an evening of drama, music and discussion, reflecting on the issues of human rights and key historical moments in a retrospective of the century.

Introduced by the distinguished broadcasters Sue MacGregor and Jon Snow, among leading writers, actors and musicians participating are Helen Bamber, Sir Ian Holm, Anita Lasker Wallfisch, the Mostar Youth Theatre, Ben Porter, Gidon Saks, Juliet Stevenson, Shelley von Strunckel, Janet Suzman and Billie Whitelaw. Proceeds from the evening will support continuing efforts to uphold and defend human rights in the new century.

For reservations (seats from £15 to £50) please call 0171 369 1734.

□ Katherine Klinger

NEWSROUND

Papal promotion

Edith Stein, the Jewish-born nun who was killed in Auschwitz and canonised last year, has been proclaimed a 'co-patroness of the European continent' by Pope John Paul II. Despite her conversion to Catholicism in 1922 and becoming a Carmelite nun, she was transported to Auschwitz with other converts in 1942.

Remaining funds

After distributing \$168 each to 310,000 needy Holocaust survivors – including Jews, gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses and the disabled – the Swiss Humanitarian Fund, set up in 1997, still holds \$15 million. Applications may still be considered for hardship cases.

Belated justice

Extradited from Argentina, 78-year-old Dinko Sakic, former commandant of the Jasenovac concentration camp in Croatia, was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in Zagreb for war crimes, including personal responsibility for the murder of 2,000 people. Jasenovac slaughtered Jews, Serbs, gypsies and anti-fascists in 1944 during Croatia's 'independence' as a Nazi puppet state between 1941 and 1945.

Slave offer 'derisive'

At talks in Washington, a reported offer of \$3.8 billion compensation to former slave labourers from 16 German companies, has been called 'an insult', reports the *Jewish Chronicle*. Estimates of the number of surviving former slave labourers are between 600,000 and 2.4 million. Israeli child slave labourers have started separate proceedings in a New York court seeking \$3.75 billion compensation from German and Austrian companies.

Berlin cemetery vandalised

More than 100 gravestones have been upturned and damaged in the huge Weissensee Jewish cemetery in East Berlin. The cemetery also serves as a Holocaust memorial.

Anne Frank's house re-opens

Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands has re-opened the newly-extended and restored Anne Frank House in Amsterdam in which Anne, author of the famous diary and her family hid for two years during the Nazi occupation. They were betrayed in 1944.

Holocaust known in 1942

Researcher Barbara Rogers has found a report in the Public Records Office, dated 8th December 1942, detailing the Nazis' mass murder of 2 million Jews in ghettos and at Auschwitz. It was shown to President Roosevelt and passed to Britain's Foreign Office □

Kazimierz, Krakow's historic Jewish quarter

All that remains today in one of Europe's major Jewish centres is a hundred or so souls who illuminate a forgotten corner of Polish history. While much of the quarter's external fabric remains, the silence of the snow-covered streets speaks of the despair, persecution and ultimate destruction of Krakow's pre-war Jewish community, reminding any visitor of the integral role played by Jewish communities throughout Polish history.

Many street names – Jozefa, Izaaka, Jakuba, Estery – bear testimony to the Jewish presence; others, such as ulica Bozego Ciala (Corpus Christi), with the main church of the same name poised within the heartland of the Jewish district, intersperse a measure of the ever-present Catholic church in this country and of its intimate bond with patriotic expressions of Polishness.

On entering Kazimierz I pass the Jewish Cultural Centre, now into its sixth year and, like the nearby Szalom Gallery, one of the many signs in the area of reviving interest in all things Jewish. The structures of eight synagogues remain, their interiors invariably devastated during the Nazi occupation. Only two, the Remuh (1557) and the Templ (1860s), have been restored and returned to their former use; the Izaak (1630s), the largest of Kazimierz's synagogues, provides for occasional congregations from Israel but functions mainly as a museum. These are the only surviving links in the continuity of a 700-year tradition of Jewish religious worship in Krakow.

The focal point of the old community and the oldest Jewish religious structure in Poland, the Stara (Old) Synagogue (1570s), which had played an integral role among Krakow Jewry and in Polish history, is now a local history museum. Nearby the Jewish presence in the old buildings – synagogues, the mikvah, the site of the Old Walled Cemetery – breaks the eery wintery silence. Entering the courtyard of the Remuh Synagogue, I am greeted by the keeper, Jankiel, who ushers me inside and discourses enthusiastically on the history of this building. When seized by the Nazis it was transformed into a 'wardrobe' for uniforms, thereby being spared the destruction meted out to many of the district's other synagogues.

At the site of the Old Walled Cemetery a commemorative inscription recalls the fate which ultimately laid to rest the vibrant soul of Jewish Kazimierz while, further along, a building project dedicated to another cultural centre symbolizes the growing interest over the last decade in Krakow's Jewish heritage. Time will tell whether this has been a false dawn or whether it will lead to the taming of the spectre of Polish anti-semitism which still plagues many Poles and prevents them from coming to terms with their nation's treatment of its Jewish population.

□ Christopher Ejsmond
Member of the Institute for
Polish-Jewish Studies, Oxford

Remembering for the future

A major conference is to be held in London and Oxford next year with the theme, 'Remembering for the Year 2000 – The Holocaust in an Age of Genocides'. Under the chairmanship of Dr Elisabeth Maxwell, the conference will be in two parts: a gathering of survivors and children of survivors in London on 16th July 2000, to be followed by an academic conference to be held in Oxford from 17th to 23rd July.

RFTF 2000 will examine how victims of Nazi persecution and their children have been affected by their experiences and how the memory of those who suffered will be passed to future generations. The conference will assess the legacy of the Holocaust, encourage the development of Holocaust studies in the next century and help counteract Holocaust denial.

The first session, to be held at the Imperial War Museum on Sunday 16th July, will provide one of the last opportunities for Holocaust scholars of international repute to seek the guidance of a significant number of Holocaust survivors together in one place.

While the deliberations of the academics are taking place in Oxford, a number of related cultural events will be promoted in London, including films, an art exhibition and musical performances, culminating in a public meeting in Central Hall Westminster on Friday 21st July □

Further details of 'Remembering for the Future 2000' are obtainable from: RFTF 2000, PO Box 20349, London NW11 0ZE.