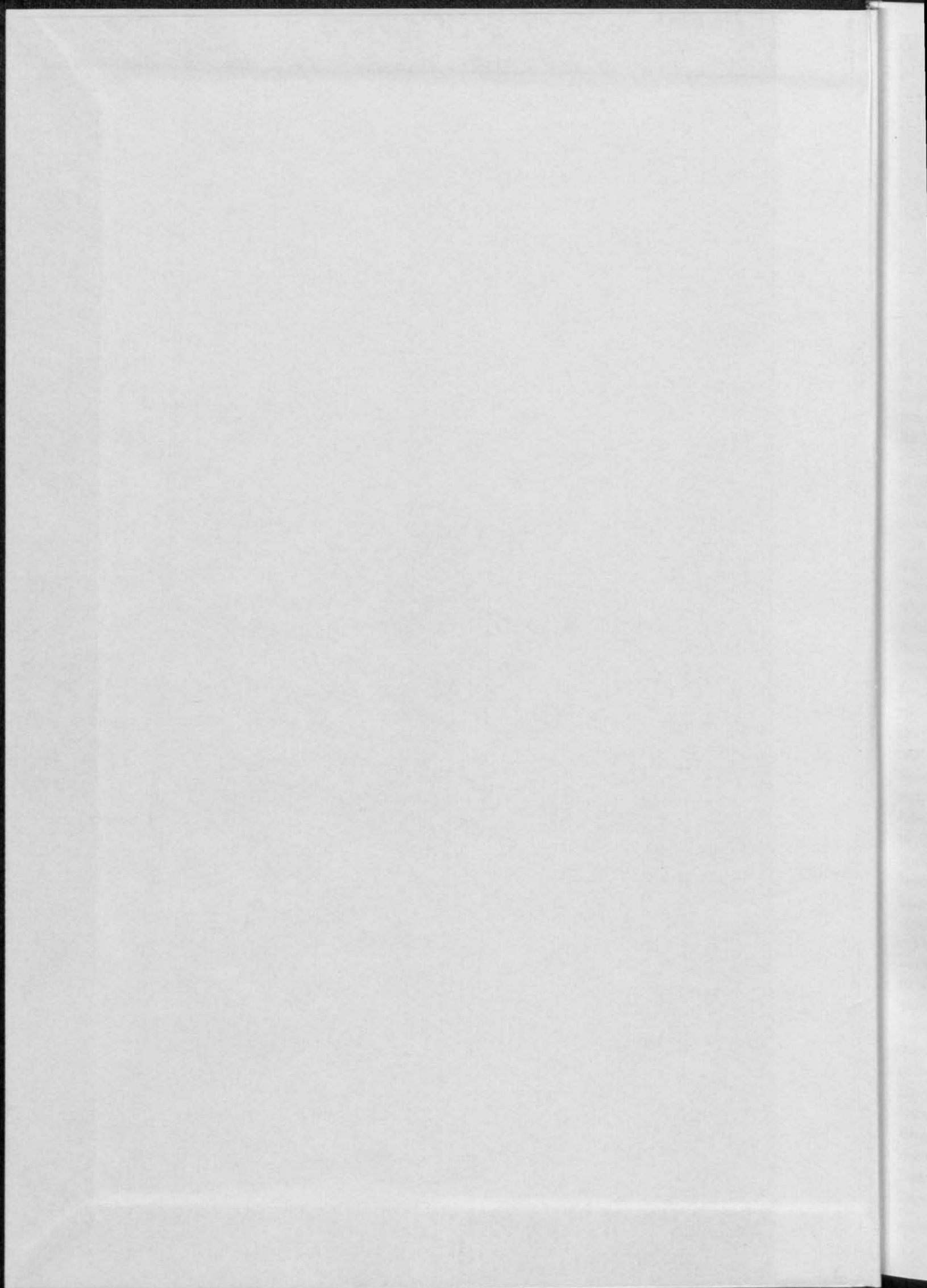




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AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

Earth Odyssey 2001

The world as always is in a state of change

It is an uncontested fact, brought back to mind by the recent TV series *Conquistadors*, that the discovery of America changed world history forever. As long ago as 1820 Canning talked of the New World redressing the balance of the Old. A century later the US affected the destinies of Europe for good as well as ill.

In 1918 when the Germans, having knocked Russia out of the war, mounted their 'final push' in the West, their offensive was blunted by the arrival of a million US soldiers at the front. Then having helped win the war America aborted the peace by staying out of the League of Nations and compounded the offence by calling in its postwar loans precipitately. Washington's lurch into self-centred isolationism helped push Europe into depression, Fascism and war. Thereafter it embarked on a steep learning curve. Besides contributing to the defeat of Nazism, it acted as midwife at the birth of the United Nations and helped resuscitate Europe by means of the Marshall Plan and the creation of NATO.

Those shots in the arm for an enfeebled continent were instrumental in containing Soviet expansion and guaranteeing half a century of peace and unprecedented prosperity for the countries of Western Europe. By the end of the millennium the implosion of the Soviet Empire created an entirely new constellation of power from which the Americans are deducing a new set of priorities. When Milosevic's serial Balkan wars elicited a slow response from neighbouring Western Europe,

America's dormant isolationism resurfaced. Congressional voices demanded that Europe get to grips with crises on its own doorstep instead of relying on American money and firepower.

At the same time America's global perspective is changing.

Handwritten: AJR 2001 2002 2003

Looking at the latter, strategically vital, oil source of the world's oil supplies, the US may well conclude that it needs to co-operate with Russia in neutralising the threat the Afghan-based Islamic terrorist Bin Laden poses alike to the Gulf Emirates and to the chain of secular Muslim successor states - Uzbekistan, Tajikistan - to the USSR.

Within this general realignment of forces it is likely that the ongoing process of European integration will engender a more closely harmonised foreign and defence policy. Closer European integration is not only an explosive issue for the British electorate, it also poses new challenges for embattled Israel. A more unified Europe must be a positive development since (*pace* Austria) it cannot allow xenophobic racism to pit one member state against another. Conversely, though, a European entity uncoupled from the United States threatens to be biased against Israel irrespective of the merit of any given

case. The chief Israelophobe among the Europeans is France, a country suffused with Gaullist self-regard, over half of whose ex-colonial subjects are either Arabs or Muslims. Other states with close ties to the Arabs are Spain and Greece. In advocating appeasement of the Arabs, France and her European confrères are guilty of a profound error of judgment. Accommodation can only be achieved by a process of give and take, but the notion of compromise is quite alien to the Arab mindset. In Hanan Ashrawi's words, "we are an all or nothing people." This is no idle boast. The Palestinian leadership rejected both the 1936 Peel Partition Plan of 1936 and the UN Partition Plan of 1947. Today Arafat lays claim to Jerusalem as the third holiest site of Islam though he cannot adduce any archaeological or documentary proof of the Prophet Mohammed's alleged links to the city.

The medieval Papacy was much given to rhetoric about the *ecclesia militans* turning into the *ecclesia triumphans*. A similar triumphalism characterises Islam in its own Middle Ages. Fuelled by oil money, imbued with fanatical faith and aided by terror, the fundamentalists are gaining ground in the one billion-strong Muslim world.

Even so the Crescent, like the Cross before it, can never triumph globally and for one simple reason: a closed system of thought is inimical to the quantum leaps of the mind that lie behind all scientific, technical and industrial as well as military advance. If that was true in the machine age it is doubly true in the age of information technology and Star Wars.

After sixty glorious years

In mid-1941 the war that had been raging for nearly two years changed its character.

The Nazi invasion of Russia inflicted fresh misery on millions, but also finally saved Britain the threat of invasion. Alongside this dramatic transformation on the world stage, a micro-event of considerable significance to thousands of Jewish refugees in Britain took place: the AJR constituted itself. Soon after, the fledgling organisation put out its first circular.

There were to be eleven such 'bulletins' in all before the first issue of the fully conceived AJR Information saw the light of day in January 1946. Since then a grand total of six hundred and sixty issues has appeared without a single month's gap. This unbroken record of continuity has gone hand in hand - particularly latterly - with a readiness to change. The journal started featuring photographs in 1983 and changed both typeface and layout that same year and again in 1991.

Now we are embarking on an even bigger - threefold (!) - change. The publication previously known as AJR Information has transmogrified into the AJR Journal. It has simultaneously assumed a conventional A4 format, and made the leap from black-and-white to add the use of a second colour. At the same time I would like to assure my traditional reader experiencing 'the shock of the new' that we remain committed to the core values on which our Founding Fathers based the organisation sixty years ago.

Richard Grunberger

A new potential

A new name, a contemporary design and some change of emphasis in content, is intended to open up opportunities to extend the readership of our magazine to a younger generation. We are confident that the children of refugees, in common with prospective readers within Jewry in general, increasingly will appreciate a monthly potpourri of thoughtful and well-informed commentary on matters of concern touching Britain, Europe and beyond

Ronald Channing

Wallenberg's execution confirmed

Swedish war hero and Budapest diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg, in January 1945 set out to meet the commander of the victorious Soviet army, Marshal Malinovsky, but was arrested by his troops near Debrecen in eastern Hungary. Nothing further was ever heard of him either by neutral Sweden or the western Allies. In 1944 and 1945 he was reputed to have saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from deportation to Auschwitz. Evidence now being revealed from the archives of Stalin's secret police puts the issue of Wallenberg's fate beyond any reasonable doubt; he was executed by the Soviet régime in the Lubyanka prison in 1947.

A member of Sweden's leading banking and business family, in 1944 aged only 32, Raoul Wallenberg was

posted as First Secretary to their embassy in Nazi-occupied Budapest from where Hungary's entire Jewish population were rapidly being deported. His energetic efforts to organise 32 safe houses under the Swedish flag and to issue *Schutzpässe* saved as many as 100,000 of the 230,000 Jews remaining in the city.

Alexander Yakovlev, former aide to Mikhail Gorbachev in the promotion of glasnost, now in charge of the archives documenting Stalin's terror, has said that Wallenberg was arrested, made a prisoner of war, convicted on charges of being an American spy and executed. It was anticipated that he would soon be officially rehabilitated by President Putin.

RDC

East End echoes

What Remains?
East End Exhibition



Storyteller, Yiddish singer and violinist Meyer Bogdanski admires a photograph of himself taken by Sam Tanner, left, on display at the Jewish Museum, Finchley, in an exhibition on the Jewish East End, then and now. The East End, once the vibrant heart of Jewish life in London, now largely peopled by later immigrant groups, has a few surviving synagogues and a core of mostly elderly Jews representing the hard-working and observant Yiddish-speaking community from Russia, the Baltic States, Poland and Romania that fled poverty and pogroms a century ago to make these

impoverished streets their home. Entitled *What Remains?* the exhibition was opened by East End aficionado and historian Prof William Fishman, right. For the immigrants just off the boats "work and survival were a tough assignment", he said, tailoring, cabinet and boot making being the staple trades. He recalled the community's response to the attacks of Sir Oswald Mosley's fascists prior to the outbreak of World War II. The exhibition, with associated lectures, continues until April.

Ronald Channing

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From pilpul to palimony

Pilpul is a process of dialectical reasoning much practised in yeshivot. Since it can easily degenerate into over-subtle hairsplitting the rabbinical authorities have long tried to curb its more extreme forms. Without much success - if Heine's quip *der Talmud ist eine jüdische Fechtschule* (fencing academy) is to be believed.

Of course, the Jews didn't have a monopoly on casuistry; the very term has Jesuit associations. Even so, generation after generation of talmudic disputants must have helped to shape our collective DNA. That this has had a largely positive effect is borne out by the large number of Jewish legal luminaries, from US Supreme Court Judge Frankfurter to Lord Chief Justice Woolf. But it has also produced an embarrassingly large number of Jewish smart alecs who will argue that black is white till they are blue in the face.

One such is the Daily Telegraph columnist Janet Daley who set out to prove that sending Bush to the White House with fewer votes than Gore is truly democratic. Her reasons: Gore has piled up millions of votes in a few densely populated coastal states, whereas support for Bush is evenly spread across the huge under-populated area in between. In other words Daley's definition of democracy is that the vote of a farmer or small town dweller should carry more weight than that of a New Yorker or San Franciscan.

Another Jewish casuist much in the public prints is Sir Alfred Sherman. This octogenarian has truly boxed the political compass. Having started off as a Communist volunteer in the Spanish Civil War, he has travelled ever rightwards since. In his last incarnation as a Thatcherite guru, Sherman has advocated privatisation of health care, transport, the post office, etc. Asked about the inconsistency between his past and present views he retorted insouciantly that 150 years ago Marx and Engels already demanded the 'withering away of the state'.

A casuist on a more elevated plane is the literature don Gabriel Josepovici. A huge TS Eliot fan, Josepovici



Richard Grunberger

said of the Jew-baiting poet: 'He taught me how to write.' When he had his attention drawn to Eliot's notorious line 'Rachel, née Rabinowicz, tears at grapes with murderous claws', his take on it was: 'This shows me exactly how not to eat grapes'.

The law probably provides the happiest hunting ground for adepts at casuistry. The American lawyer Roy Cohn shot to fame in the 1950s as the forensically trained rottweiler Senator McCarthy unleashed on individuals branded as 'pinkos', or Communist fellow travellers. By sheer coincidence the colour pink is also associated with homosexuality, and Cohn was as much of a homophobe as he was a Red-baiter. (After his death it came to light that he had been a closet homosexual all the time!)

An American lawyer endowed with a golden, rather than a forked, tongue is Alan Dershowitz. He became famous in a suit the discarded mistress of Lee Marvin filed against the actor. Dershowitz argued that it was inequitable that divorced wives received alimony whereas mistresses who may have wasted their best years on a man emerged with nothing from the breakup. The court upheld his plea and ordered Lee Marvin to pay his ex-mistress something akin to alimony - hereafter known as palimony.

Richard Grunberger

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Sink city victim

The grim high rise blocks of 3000 dank flats and the dark walkways of North Peckham Estate are disappearing under the demolition hammer, to be reborn as 2000 houses under a £230 million crash programme, in an attempt to reverse the failed social engineering of the 1960s. Peckham is one of London's most deprived boroughs, and despite its architectural award-winning new library (already disfigured with graffiti), boasts few places of entertainment, education and recreation for the children from multi-ethnic backgrounds who people it.

The majority of Peckham's population is dark-skinned. For the no-hope kids who live there, belonging to a gang is a way of life, as is the taking and pushing of drugs and the criminal acts necessary to finance the habit, 20,000 hypodermic needles already having been found among the rubble. But it's the age of gang members which particularly shocks - 11 to 15 being quoted as typical - reportedly carrying and using weapons.

Stabbings, shootings, killings and rape are not uncommon in the area, and violent crime is on the increase. Young boys of Nigerian, West Indian, Asian and Chinese origin, often from broken homes and without real family, find themselves excluded and isolated and are easily recruited into the criminal gangs. For the police, at least after dark, the estate is a no-go area, though they are unlikely to admit it. The area's schools are at the bottom of the pile, trying to reach impossible norms set by national bodies which condemn the endemic lack of success.

Peckham is not some impoverished, anarchic African city, or an avoidable black ghetto in a sprawling US metropolis; it is part of 21st century London. Into this environment came ten-year-old Nigerian Damilola Taylor, his mother, sister and brother. From his first day at school he complained of being taunted and bullied, perhaps because he was keen to learn and not at all street-wise. His life was tragically cut short in a vicious act - probably perpetrated by youngsters little older than he - leaving him to die in a bleak stairwell with few coming to his aid.

What kind of world are we prepared to tolerate in our inner cities? Are sink estates inevitable to house a recognisable and permanent underclass in Britain's major cities?

Refugees old and new

Marking the 62nd anniversary of Kristallnacht, Prof Tony Kushner spoke to a Wiener Library audience on the theme of refugees and asylum seekers. Taking as a starting point the experience of Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe in the 1930s, he spoke about the erosion of the concept of asylum over the last century. Asylum, which had begun as an absolute right, had evolved into a temporary privilege, particularly after the Aliens Act 1905.

Prof Kushner reminded his listeners that in the 1930s, Britain opened its doors to selected refugees only (for example children but not their parents). In his view, more refugees would have been admitted to Britain in the late 1930s and in the 1970s if the government of the day had not been concerned about racism. Perceptions of asylum seekers and refugees had also undergone changes. In a poll in Feb 1997, 75% of those questioned agreed that refugees needed help and support, whereas by 1999 only 49% agreed that refugees should stay in Britain. He contrasted this with the genuine support given to Jewish refugees after Kristallnacht.

How did refugees define themselves? Opponents downgraded their humanity; supporters emphasised their contribution. In the latter case, this amounted to a conditional acceptance of refugees who were not seen to have needs and for whom the central theme was loss. In some cases the 'label' refugee had been kept (for example in the title AJR, continued by the second generation: ACJR). It was surprising that they should wish to retain the description given that it had been a derogatory term at the time of their arrival. However, over the decades, Jewish refugees from Nazism had become the 'new Huguenots', the unromantic reality forgotten and their story idealised.

Prof Kushner concluded with the thought-provoking proposition that, in the year 2000, there was a danger that Great Britain would appear to be a haven of asylum but without refugees.

Ladislav Balaz, a founder member of the Roma Civic initiative, gave a short address on the plight of the Roma in the Czech Republic. A member of the Czech Parliament, he and his family had been forced to flee the country over two years ago because of death threats. "We are not criminals" he said, "we are looking for a second life."

Marion Koebner

Czech property claims

Act 172/1991 of 25 May 1991, which applies to "the transfer of State-owned property to the possession of cities, towns and localities", gave claimants 10 years to resolve their claims. The deadline is therefore May 25 2001. Claims under this Act must have been filed by 31 August 1996 and proof of Czech citizenship is required. For those excluded from claiming because of this requirement, a Foundation is being established by the Federation of Jewish Communities with government participation. The government will transfer money into the Foundation, out of which a financial sum will be given to individual claimants, "not as compensation, but rather as a symbolic gesture". This procedure is currently

being established and the first payments can be expected in the first half of 2001.

There is no deadline for claimants registered as owners in the Land Register (Cadaster) or who are descendants of registered owners.

Act 212/2000 of 23 June 2000 of the Czech Republic relates only to movable and agricultural property. In the case of agricultural land, or buildings of agricultural purpose on agricultural land, claims must be filed by 30 June 2001. Claims for works of art in the Czech Republic must be filed by 31 December 2002. Claimants do not need to hold Czech citizenship.

For further information, you are advised to contact the Federation of Jewish Communities, Prague, Czech Republic.

War Crimes Inquiries

Jon Silverman - BBC Home Affairs Correspondent

In the last decade of the twentieth century, the names of some 400 suspects were investigated by British police officers under the 1991 War Crimes Act. Detectives travelled to Eastern Europe, Israel, Canada, the United States, South Africa and New Zealand in search of information and witnesses. The result of this unprecedented operation was that two people were prosecuted; one was convicted. The 1989 inquiry under Sir Thomas Hetherington and William Chalmers which recommended war crimes legislation, recognised that time would be the chief enemy of a successful prosecution. With elderly suspects and elderly witnesses scattered in many countries, it would be imperative to stage trials as swiftly as possible. Their eminently sensible proposal to miss out the committal hearing in war crimes cases was never implemented.

The first person to be prosecuted for war crimes was Szymon Serafinowicz. He was charged in July 1995, when he was already eighty-five. It was not until January 1997 that his trial was scheduled at the Old Bailey. By this time, he was in failing health and the jury decided that he was unfit to plead. Given the strength of evidence, there is little doubt that Serafinowicz, a collaborationist police chief responsible for hundreds if not thousands of deaths, would have been convicted. Scotland Yard's war crimes unit first became aware of the name Serafinowicz at the end of 1991, so why did it take three and a half years to charge him? The police explanation is that they had the wrong spelling. It took eighteen months to track him down in the UK - even though he was in the telephone book and had lived in the same house in Banstead in Surrey since 1956.

It happened again in the case of Anthony Sawoniuk, the only man to have been convicted under the War Crimes Act. The result was that a man whose name was first given to the UK authorities as a war crimes suspect in 1988 was not arrested and charged for another nine years. It emerges that he was not even a new suspect when he came to the

attention of the police in 1991.

Research which I have carried out in the United States reveals that the name Serafinowicz was passed to the UK authorities in 1982 by the American OSI (the Nazi-hunting unit within the Department of Justice). The Americans had been told that Serafinowicz was in Britain and a formal request was made to the Foreign Office to make inquiries. According to the present director of the OSI, Whitehall turned a deaf ear. 'They simply didn't want to know,' he told me. The irony is that if the Foreign Office had but known it (or indeed, evinced any interest), there was damning information about Serafinowicz on their very own doorstep - in the files of M15. Serafinowicz 'is said to have taken part in arrests, executions and burning of villages and to be guilty of the deaths of numerous persons'. However, their view that Serafinowicz 'should be treated as a war criminal' led only to the most cursory of investigations, in which the suspect was exonerated.

In 1967, a Jewish survivor from the town of Mir - of which Serafinowicz was police chief in 1941 - was interviewed by the police in Israel. He says he saw Serafinowicz shoot his friend dead. He added that the killer was 'said to be living somewhere in England'. This statement was in the files of the Australian Special Investigation Unit which examined a number of Byelorussian cases in the 1980s. Why did Scotland Yard not get hold of this highly significant material right at the outset of their inquiries? In the 1970s, the name of Serafinowicz came up a number of times during the trial of a Wehrmacht officer, but Scotland Yard had no inkling of this until 1993.

I have copies of KGB files which reveal that the Soviets knew as early as 1951 that Serafinowicz was living in England. They even had his exact address. So, when Scotland Yard put out a bullish statement, as they did in 1997, extolling their unique and exhaustive investigation into Szymon Serafinowicz, perhaps it should not be taken entirely at face value.

The parliamentary debates on the War Crimes Bill in 1990 and 1991 were among the most ferocious in postwar history, with the opposition spearheaded by some of the country's most distinguished politician lawyers - such as Lord Shawcross, Britain's chief prosecutor at Nuremberg, and Lord Hailsham, the former Lord Chancellor. With the warning that this was retrospective legislation - and, as such, thoroughly bad law - ringing in their ears, the prosecuting agencies in England and Scotland knew they had to tread carefully. They were also acutely conscious that other jurisdictions, such as Australia and Canada, which had similarly changed their law to allow war crimes prosecutions, had not achieved a single conviction between them.

Understandable caution led the CPS to adopt a policy which, in my view, was highly controversial. On March 29th, 1999 - three days before the jury returned with its verdict in the trial of Anthony Sawoniuk - a background briefing note issued to the media revealed the fourth prosecuting criterion to which the police were working in their war crimes investigations: Before a suspect 'could be considered a serious candidate for prosecution', there needed to be 'proof that the defendant was in a position of command; responsibility is also an important factor in deciding on the defendant's culpability.' Both parts are highly contentious. The 1991 War Crimes Act says nothing at all about command or responsibility and makes no stipulation about the status of potential suspects. Surely, the Nuremberg trials established for all time the principle that obeying the orders of a superior was not an acceptable defence.

In 259 of the 400 cases investigated, there was either insufficient evidence to prosecute or the subject's health precluded a prosecution. Even if only 20 per cent were guilty, that's more than fifty people who lived out their lives in tranquility, having taken part in the greatest act of mass murder of the twentieth century. Was Britain a haven for war criminals? The answer is self-evident.

Abridged from History Today, November 2000.

Website: www.historytoday.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JUDENPLATZ MEMORIAL

Sir - The Judenplatz in Vienna (December 2000) is a beautiful square. As you enter, and before being able to absorb the buildings in it, you are struck by the huge memorial which dominates the square and forces you to look at it. All you notice are two large closed doors. It reminded me immediately of the gates of Dachau and its bleakness invoked images of the gas ovens. Is this what Rachel Whiteread intended? I needed to be told that the sculpture represents a library.

I tried to look at the surrounding buildings in the Judenplatz but my eye kept coming back to the sculpture. This is not a memorial which everyone will like. But love it or hate it, you can't ignore it. Maybe that's what it is about. It is about time Austria faced up to its past and maybe this sculpture will open up the debate. I hope so.

Sherrill Lazarus
Bushey, Herts

AUSTRIA'S POSTWAR HISTORY

Sir - I am not quite sure what Albert Steinfeld meant to 'warn' us about in Hella Pick's book (November 2000 letters). His is a serious slur on the reputation of one of our most respected political journalists. The very title of Hella Pick's book *Guilty Victim* (no question mark) and its entire content prove the opposite of Mr Steinfeld's assertion. I would strongly urge those who, like myself, want to know what has happened in Austria since 1945 to read this book. They will find a dispassionate and scholarly historical account written by a distinguished writer - a fellow Kind who also needed to know.

Karl Overton
Edinburgh

GERMAN PENSION AND BANK CHARGES

Sir - From my experience it would appear that Mr Alweis is not entirely correct in what he says (November letters). My sister receives two separate pensions from Germany: her Altersrente paid by the Bundesversicherungsanstalt für

Angestellte (BfA) and her Entschädigungsrente paid by the Landesverwaltungsamt, Berlin. While the former is converted from Euros, the latter is still converted from Deutschmarks. If the BfA could be persuaded to use the 'old fashioned' payment method employed by the Entschädigungsamt, we should all be a lot better off!

F Lustig
Reading, Berks.

Sir - I wrote to Barclays Bank and requested to have the transfer charge on my pension payments waived. I found that my application to the Chairman's office at 54 Lombard Street received a prompt and courteous reply while correspondence at branch level had been rather slow. Barclays will refund past charges but require documentary evidence i.e. pension notification sent by the German or Austrian bank and the funds-transfer credit advice sent by Barclays Bank.

Eva Wittenberg
Pinner, Mddx

GREY MATTER

Sir - My sympathy for Ronald Channing's predicament (October Viewpoint) that may well affect many of us one day; but the 75p rise for pensioners does not represent the whole picture. There are, in addition, the £150 [now £200] winter fuel allowance and the £104 TV licence, both of them tax free. - every little helps.

Robert Miller
Leatherhead, Surrey

HIERARCHY OF SUFFERING

Sir - Mr F Goldberg finds it 'insulting' that 'some Kinder describe themselves as Holocaust survivors' (November 2000 letters). Surely we all are, we who have survived the Holocaust? Surely we have all suffered? I define being thrown out of my country, out of my city, out of my room in our flat with its piano, cut off from all my friends and family and landing in an alien country, poor, knowing nobody, as a trauma, on the healing of which I will spend the rest of my life as on a bereavement. And it is a

bereavement as one was 'bereft' - deprived - of one's whole way of life. For all those who have 'suffered' more than I, I have huge respect.

Peter Zander
London W1

LAST GLIMPSE OF A HABSBURG

Sir - Richard Grunberger's romantic encounter in Schönbrunn brought to mind one of my earliest childhood memories. I too grew up in Hietzing and, as we lived only five minutes walk from Schönbrunn Park, I spent many happy hours there.

One occasion stands out in my memory: My *Kinderfräulein* had taken me for a walk and we found ourselves in front of the palace. There was a slight commotion amongst the strollers and all eyes were turned toward the palace. Kaiser Karl had come out onto the balcony, together with his retinue, to have a last look at the park and the Floriette whilst (so we were told) his car was waiting in the court at the back to take him into exile. I may be the only surviving witness of that historic moment.

Otto Fleming
Sheffield

FAMILY HISTORY

Sir - Like Marion Koebner (October to December 2000), I have also visited small towns in Poland (for example Smiegiel, Milicz and Zduny) and had similar experiences. The work of building up the Leszno Jewish Museum by Dariusz Czwojdrak is remarkable and it is all the more regrettable that his wide knowledge is not rewarded with a salary which allows him to support himself and his family. I have written to the Lauder Foundation in Warsaw but without response.

In Smiegiel he has read and laid out some gravestones from the overbuilt cemetery which were thrown into a Lutheran graveyard but insufficient funds are available to intersperse the stones with gravel to make them visible to the people who live and grow up there. There are many similar places in Wilapolska with remnants of Jewish life which already disappeared when Prussia became Polish after the First World War.

If anyone has any suggestions as to how we can ensure that the remnants remain visible and make the population aware of the past when they lived amicably with their ancestors, I would be delighted to hear from them.

Susanne Dyke
Eastbourne

REMEMBRANCE

Sir - I attended the remembrance ceremonies in Weymouth as President of the Old Boys' Club of Weymouth College where I attended from 1936 to 1939. I had the privilege to lay the poppy wreath and later on, when inspecting the Weymouth cenotaph, I noted a display of flowers with a *shalom* card remembering the 6 million victims of the Holocaust. I found this very touching as there is no Jewish community in Weymouth, the nearest is Bournemouth.

FH Edwards
London N2

JEWISH MUSEUMS

Sir - I recently visited my home town Fuerth, Bavaria, where there is an interesting museum with a branch in Schnaittach which houses exhibits from Franconian villages and small towns. Schnaittach museum also houses the town's museum. Both are in the mediaeval houses of the rabbi and chazan and the mediaeval synagogue. On the site there is also a Mikvah last used at the beginning of the nineteenth century as well as a synagogue. Both museums are well worth a visit for anyone in the area.

Rev Bernd Koschland
London NW4

OSMOND HOUSE

Sir - My mother was a resident at Osmond House for the last six years of her life until she passed away in her 98th year. She was completely dependent on the staff and no tribute can be high enough for everyone there: carers, kitchen and laundry personnel and office. I was there twice a week for the last six years and never heard an unkind or impatient word to any of the residents. Geriatric care is an extremely difficult job and the atmosphere and care at Osmond House are beyond praise.

Lily Goldsmith
Wembley, Mddx



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Arts and Events Diary January

Until 3

From Shteibl to City Prints of pre-war Jewish East End scenes by John Allin and portraits of Russian peasants and designs for Russian Yiddish Theatre by Meir Axelrod. Ben Uri Gallery, Sternberg Centre N3. Sunday - Thursday 11am - 4pm (closed bank holidays). Details 020 8349 5724

Monday 8

George Orwell - down & not out in London (with slides). Stefan Howald. Club 43. 7.45 pm. Details 01442 254360

Monday 8 - 25

The Ben Uri Story From Art Society to Museum, the influence of Anglo Jewish Artists on the Modern British Movement. Phillips Auctioneers 101 New Bond Street W1. Details 020 8349 5724

Mon 8 January - 16 February

An Exhibition of Works on Paper by Julie Held - Linking the effects of family history, Nazi Germany, classical myths and biblical themes. *"From the margins of decorativeness into something more eloquent, Held's palette vividly radiates the look of enamels coated with glaze, or carpets woven with the glossiest strands of rich coloured thread imaginable...Held's world is both robust and sensitive."* Manor House, 80 East End Road N3. Monday - Thursday 10am - 5pm, Friday 10am - 1pm. Details 020 8349 5654

Until 14

Telling Time Includes Belshazzar's Feast by Rembrandt. National Gallery WC2. Monday & Tuesday, Thursday - Sunday 10am - 6pm, Wednesday 10am - 9pm. Details 020 7747 2885

Until 14

The Wilde Years: Oscar Wilde and the art of his times. Includes cartoons by Max Beerbohm. Barbican Art Gallery EC2. Monday, Tuesday & Thursday to Saturday 10am - 6pm, Wednesday 10am - 8pm, Sunday 12 - 6pm. Details 020 7638 8891. £7, concs £5.

Until 14

Turner Prize 2000. Includes winner Wolfgang Tillmans' photographs Tate Britain SW1. Monday - Sunday 10am - 5.50pm. Details 020 7887 8008. £7

Mon 15

WF Rosner. Jüdisch-Deutscher Galgenhumor (in German). Club 43. 7.45 pm.

Mon 22

Ulrike Walton-Jordan. The Ambassador magazine: Elsbeth & Hans Juda's contribution to British design and art. Club 43. 7.45 pm.

22 January - 8 April

Gemma Levine Photographic portraits National Portrait Gallery WC2. Monday - Wednesday & Saturday, Sunday 10am - 6pm, Thursday, Friday 10am - 9pm. Details 020 7306 0055

Sun 28

Holocaust Memorial Day concert. Music by Julian Dawes. Lauderdale House, Waterlow Park, London N6. 3 pm.

Until 28

What remains: the Jewish East End then and now. Photographs by the award-winning Sam Tanner. Jewish Museum Finchley, 80 East End Road N3. Monday - Thursday 10.30am - 5pm, Sunday 10.30am - 4.30pm. Details 020 8349 1143. £2, concs £1.

Until 28

Keeping the Light. Photographs by Suzon Fuks of the Jews of Cochin Jewish Museum, Albert Street NW1. Monday - Thursday 10am - 4pm, Sunday 10am - 5pm. £3, concs £2. Details 020 7284 1997

Mon 29

Richard Tauber - the man and his music. Hanna Graber. Club 43. 7.45 pm.

Until 18 February

Turner. The Great Watercolours. Royal Academy W1. Monday - Thursday & Saturday & Sunday 10am - 6pm, Friday 10am - 10pm. £7, concs £6. Details 020 7300 8000

ARTS & REVIEWS

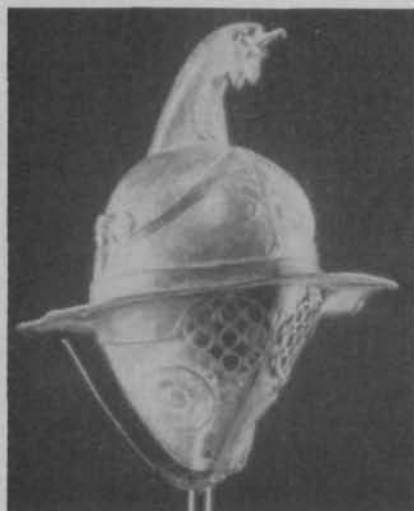
Art Notes

by Gloria Tessler

The theme of gladiators has always enthralled us, conjuring up those twin images of eroticism and brutality. Some 1,500 years after Christian influences placed the notion of dying for a living as a worthwhile circus act under a taboo, the **British Museum** joined forces with 22 other museums on the initiative of **Hamburg Museum** in Germany to produce what they claim is the first exhibition dedicated to the violence and sensationalism behind the power of Rome. The result is **Gladiators and Caesars**, which, two and a half years in the making, continues until 21 January 2001. It shows the frescoes that depict the period, the artefacts of the Coliseum, the helmets weighing 18 kilos and heavy armour worn by otherwise naked fighters - those ancient Romans liked a thrill - the sarcophagi bearing chariot racing themes, pots, lamps, even graffiti on which the short lives and messy deaths of the graduates of gladiatorial schools are paraded as an example of how Rome wooed the masses with the taste of blood and power.

Any ambitious nobleman worth his salt knew that the path to political power was through sponsorship of the gladiatorial games. The Roman Coliseum could hold 50,000 people, and the Circus Maximus up to 200,000. However, contrary to popular belief, the thumbsdown, which meant death for the loser, was not so commonly used. It was expensive to train a first-class gladiator, after all, and the nobility or emperors who sponsored these massive public events, had to put things into economic perspective. The emperor Nero, for all the cruel sensuality of his features as portrayed in his marble likeness, once declared he did not want anyone killed in these combats. Having said that, a gladiator was lucky to live to the ripe old age of thirty.

The exhibition shows that horse racing, and even boxing, all had their place in ancient Rome. Without our modern safety standards, of course. In ancient Rome boxing gloves made of leather binding often concealed metal knuckle dusters. Not quite according to the Queensberry Rules, murmured curator Dr Paul Robert. Horseracing was the place to meet your girlfriend, observed Ovid. But the grim truth of a gladiator's likely fate was movingly displayed in an epitaph for a "darling of Rome", fallen in his 26th year. One of the three fates, "spiteful Lachesis", is blamed for counting his victories and not his years and deciding he was an old man. As scenes from *Gladiator* and *Ben Hur* recreated the violent message on video with varying degrees of accuracy - hundreds of horses died during the making of *Ben Hur* because the chariots were too heavy for them - two actors paraded faithful copies of the helmets bearing the fate goddess, Nemesis, in the shape of a griffin. There was some, but not too much, evidence of female gladiators. The Caesars were squeamish about women seeing bloodshed, but indulged the occasional taste for ogling girl gladiators.



Bronze gladiator's helmet from Pompeii,
1st century AD.

The exhibition also features the masks of Roman theatre. Burlesque and mime were inspired by the ancient Greeks, but imperial Rome was surprisingly prudish over tragedies which might involve strip-tease or bad language. These were roundly condemned in the pre-Christian era. *Plus ça change.*

For a gentler view of history, the **National Gallery's Impression** exhibition, the awkwardly named **Painting Quickly in France**, which continues until the end of January, refutes the suggestion that Impressionist masterpieces were painted slowly and painstakingly over time. The works here were chosen because of their rapid and spontaneous execution for which, of course, the Impressionist movement truly earned its name. The predictably controversial **Turner Prize** is featured at **Tate Britain** once more, and the work of the prize-winner and the short-listed artists, **Glenn Brown, Michael Raedecker, Tomoko Takahashi** and **Wolfgang Tillmans** will be on show until mid-January. **Battersea Park** launched its second **Affordable Art Fair** recently following last year's inaugural success, in which more than £1 million was spent on the art works on show. The organisers' aim is to present contemporary art from as little as £50 to no more than £2,000. Next year's **Jerwood Painting Prizewinner** will be announced in March 2001 at the **Jerwood Gallery** in London's Union Street. Previous winners of the prestigious £30,000 prize include **Prunella Clough, Graigie Aitchison, Maggi Hambling** and **Patrick Caulfield**. The prize could go equally to a celebrated or less well-known artist.

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Reviews

The unanswerable question

THE GERMAN TRAUMA

Gitta Sereny, Penguin Press, 2000.

This book is a collection of personal memoirs, interviews and comments. In it Sereny, for the first time, tells her own story - witness of the Anschluss in her native Vienna, studies in France, welfare work with refugee children and escape over the Pyrenees.

After the war she worked with UNRRA who had the unenviable task of returning, often against their will, children who had been abducted and "germanised", to their Polish families of origin.

Sereny's chapter on German attitudes to their past (written in 1967) describes how the older generation, maintaining a stony silence about the war, spoil their young with material goods and substitute a frantic dash for industrial success for the acknowledgement of their guilt. She quotes a range of views among the younger generation, much of it depressingly hostile to the provision of pensions to Nazi victims and ignorant of the fact that a much larger sum is devoted to German war-victims. She contrasts this with genuine attempts to bring to trial the guilty men of the SS. In a chapter written recently, we learn how the children of high-ranking Nazis like Bormann and Heydrich are attempting to atone for their parents' wickedness. One of them states that even today "...there is...a mass denial in Germany about what millions of German soldiers witnessed in the East. It is a very important part of our unresolved pathology, which by lies and silence...has created the myth of an ordinary war." Yet the memories are there and will not quite go away.

The most interesting parts of the book are the interviews with Stangl, the commandant of Treblinka, President Waldheim, Leni Riefenstahl, Hitler's favourite filmmaker, and an account of the trial in Israel of John Demianiuk, allegedly 'Ivan the Terrible' of Treblinka. Riefenstahl, from her charming cottage in Bavaria, declares that her film *Triumph of the Will* extolling the glories of the Nazi regime was "not political", and that she had "suffered greatly" as a result of her friendship with Hitler. To wit, she was shown nasty pictures of concentration camp victims, and had to endure several months' house-arrest in her own home! The most probing interview is with

Stangl, from which readers can glean a mass of facts about the organisation of death camps - as well as evasion and self-justification in the place of any admission of guilt for the crimes committed there. As to the Demianiuk trial, if one has already "supped full of horrors" here are more to come in the description of the activities of 'Ivan the Terrible'. The outcome of the trial, as we know, was inconclusive, and Sereny doubts the wisdom of relying on evidence so far removed in time.

One is bound to ask what new light Sereny's interviews shed on the Nazi mentality. We learn much about the surrounding social and political circumstances, but inside these people there remains a core of evil no-one can penetrate. Nevertheless, there is much to ponder on in this long but never less than fascinating book about the enduring effect of the Nazi period on the German people.

Martha Blend

'New musical dynasty'

Sudden Light by Benjamin Wallfisch
Manchester Camerata, Bridgewater Hall

At just 21 years of age, exciting young composer Benjamin Wallfisch's new work *Sudden Light* was premiered in Manchester's splendid Bridgewater Hall by the Manchester Camerata, augmented by 85 local young musicians, led with panache by Richard Howarth and guided with clarity, authority and musical sensitivity by their conductor Nicholas Kraemer.

Benjamin is the son of international cellist Raphael Wallfisch, soloist at AJR's 1999 concert, and grandson of cellist Anita Lasker Wallfisch, Holocaust survivor and founder member of the English Chamber Orchestra, and her pianist husband, the late Michael Wallfisch. This year Benjamin is completing his studies in composition, piano and conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music and the University of Manchester, having already graduated with first class honours.

Sudden Light, a 21st century atmospheric composition, takes its inspiration from a poem by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, creating overlapping harmonies which explore the theme 'I have been here before'. The huge 112-piece orchestra required for its performance was formed courtesy of a complementary performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis*,

the young musicians of the second orchestra joining the Camerata in a seamless musical experience. *The Manchester Evening News* described the performance as one in which "melodic and nerve-tingling tensions gave way to organised chaos!" On completion of the performance of her grandson's composition Anita Wallfisch commented "Perhaps we have begun a musical dynasty?"

Ronald Channing

Walks through history

**IN LONDON TREFFEN WIR UNS
WIEDER: VIER SPAZIERGÄNGE DURCH
EIN VERGESSENES KAPITEL
DEUTSCHER KULTURGESCHICHTE**
Steffen Pross,

Frankfurt am Main, Eichborn, 2000.

This highly enjoyable and well-researched book takes the reader on four London walks to uncover a forgotten chapter of post-1933 German cultural history: between Regent's Park and Marble Arch, through Bloomsbury to Soho, a day in Hampstead and once around Hyde Park. Text and photographs reveal much about those who had to leave Berlin, Vienna, Prague and elsewhere to start a new life here. And one discovers parts of London hardly mentioned in travel guides and school books.

London, which offered exile to thousands, was for many only a temporary halt en route to America. Others became British, are called Lord or Sir. Some returned to Austria or Germany; others, who escaped the Holocaust, only came to London after the war. The list of names from Kokoschka to Schwitters, Bergner to Zadek, Kerr, Gropius and many more tell the story of flight, exile and emigration.

Academics, including many Nobel Prize winners, came to London, Oxford and Cambridge. Already in the spring of 1933 William Beveridge, Director of the London School of Economics, founded the Academic Assistance Council, which invited Jewish academics who had been expelled from German universities. By the end of 1938, 1,400 German and 400 Austrian academics had been assisted. Between 1933 and the outbreak of war, Jewish emigrants started about 300 factories here. In the autumn of 1939, 62,000 Germans and 12,000 Austrians, mainly Jews, of whom about 50,000 were in London, were registered with the British police.

"I feel at home when I write German words with my pencil but all around me English is spoken" wrote Elias Canetti in 1939 in Hampstead, which became the centre of German-speaking emigration. Walter Gropius lived in Isokon Flats, composer Berthold Goldschmidt settled in Belsize Park, Lilli Palmer is buried in the small graveyard in Church Row, Dr Joseph Suschitzky opened his German bookshop Libris in Boundary Road NW8. Fred Uhlman founded *Der Freie Deutsche Kulturbund* in 36 Upper Park Road in 1939; Dosio Koffler and Kurt Hiller lived in Parliament Hill, Elias and Veza Canetti in Thurlow Road, Rudolf Bing in Belsize Crescent, Ernst Toller in Lambolle Road, Sigmund and Anna Freud in Maresfield Gardens, and so on. Club 1943, an Anglo-German cultural forum, started in Broadhurst Gardens and still meets weekly at Belsize Square Synagogue. Among its members were Theodor Kramer, Erich Fried, Otto Lehmann-Russbüldt, Alfred Unger and his brother Wilhelm, Hans José Rehfisch (founder of the Club), Hermann Friedmann, Hans Jaeger, Grete Fischer and many more.

This magnificent book is not one to be read at one - or even several sittings - or even just as a companion on the walks. It is a reference book which belongs on the bookshelf of anyone interested in how Britain, and London in particular, played host to German culture in exile.

Gerald Holm

Heartbeat

Road to Heaven Young@heart chorus
Lyric, Hammersmith.

If your grandson went to a disco in Soho and saw you there jitterbugging, he wouldn't have been more amazed than I was watching the Young@heart chorus in their show *Road to Heaven*. This group of men and women, whose average age is 75, sing and dance to pop numbers from the '40s to the '70s, American and English; they sing the old numbers but the treatment is a hilarious take-off of the latest pop groups' antics. They are dressed in an assortment of white nighties and tunics reminiscent of a hospital-cum-asylum where they are locked up for being old and useless. The show is a triumphant denial of the sentence! "Should I stay or should I go?" (sings defiantly an 80 year-old woman)/ "Tell me 'cos I wanna know/ Should I stay or should I go/ If I go there'll be trouble/ If I stay it'll be double, so/ Tell me 'cos I wanna

know/ Should I stay or should I go?"

If you were told to grow old "gracefully", this show shouts: "Bullshit, don't grow old!" as the septuagenarians sing and dance, raising their fists in a challenge of age-ism, obviously enjoying themselves as much as the audience: "May your heart always be joyful/ May your song always be sung/ May you stay (Yes!) forever young!"

Young@heart began 17 years ago as an attempt to break up the tedium of a daycentre for cheap meals for the elderly of Massachusetts; however, according to Bob Cilman, the director of the group, the chorus was never intended to be a social service for the elderly. True, its members lived years longer than others and enjoyed their lives more, but the group worked and still works for the sake of their art. They have since toured all over the world and the Lyric Hammersmith was packed. The audience was a show in itself; mostly very young, they literally rose to the occasion, clapping, banging, whistling, screaming like in a concert with the King, finally, standing up and on their seats, raising fists and singing along with the chorus. I don't usually like musicals like *Les Mis* but this was not just nostalgia, not just wishful thinking, not just politically correct social comment but brimmed over with a sense of humour full of self-mockery, a unique and exciting theatrical experience. Their next project is about the French Revolution with, I understand, a heavy emphasis on Sinatra and the Stones - if you are young@heart, don't miss it!

And now, eat your heart out Massachusetts! We Jewish refugees have our own Theatre Troupe, average age 67, and will be performing four comic playlets by Harold Pinter in the Hendon Holocaust Centre on the 18 February; all AJR are invited and will get not only sympathy but cakesantea and it'll all be free!

Andrew Herskovits

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PROFILE

by Ronald Channing

An anonymous Georgian house in Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury is home to the British Museum Development Trust. While busy and purposeful, an unpretentious sitting room off the office of its chairman presents an oasis of calm, the perfect venue in which to meet the urbane aesthete and distinguished academic, former civil servant and merchant banker, Sir Claus Moser.

With little prompting, he recalls his happy, carefree and affluent boyhood in Berlin, particularly excelling at music and sport. At one and the same time his family were very German and yet intensely Jewish; his father, a banker, had served in the Kaiser's army in World War I. Members of the Reform synagogue, the family were ministered to by the great Rabbi Leo Baeck, Sir Claus' father wearing his top hat on their high holy day visits.

Humiliation at school

A sharp reminder of the changed status of the Jews came in 1934. On entering the classroom his teacher performed the Heil Hitler ritual, to which the whole class responded with the exception of the two Jewish boys who, should they have been so minded, were forbidden from following suite. Humiliation was a regular daily occurrence all round them in the streets. Quite often he saw Hitler passing in his car. Though as proud Germans many middle and upper class Jews believed that Hitler was a passing phenomenon, increasingly aware of virulent antisemitism, his father had decided to emigrate well before Hitler came to power, which they eventually did in 1936.

After attending English public school, soon after his 17th birthday in 1940 he was interned behind barbed wire together with his father and brother and thousands of other refugees. Fortunately, after just three months he was released to become immersed in the exciting intellectual atmosphere of the London School of Economics, completing his degree in 1943 as the outstanding student of his year.



Sir Claus Moser

RAF volunteer

Claus immediately volunteered for the RAF as the most immediate way to pursue his personal vendetta against Hitler. The recruiting sergeant, taking note of Claus's enthusiasm to engage the enemy and excellent academic qualifications, promptly signed him on as a flight mechanic - cleaning out aeroplanes. Though later promoted to instrument repairer, he was clearly cut out for other professions, yet as virtually the only university-educated man in his unit, the experience of meeting people from all walks of life was to prove invaluable.

After demobilisation he returned to the LSE as a member of staff, was made Professor of Social Statistics and advised the Robbins Committee on Higher Education. In 1967 he was appointed Director of the government's Central Statistical Office, serving three Prime Ministers until 1978 when he joined NM Rothschild as Vice-Chairman. From 1984 to 1993 he was

Warden of Wadham College, Oxford, and from 1991 Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Oxford. He is Chancellor of both Keele University and the Open University of Israel.

Talented musician

Music is an essential element in Sir Claus' life. He remains a talented classical pianist, having studied under Louis Kentner, and became actively associated with the Royal Academy of Music, the BBC, the Royal Opera House - serving as Chairman for 13 years, Glyndebourne Opera, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, London's South Bank, the London Symphony Orchestra, Music at Oxford and the Oxford Playhouse - being Chairman of both - and the Jerusalem Music Centre.

Claus's presidential address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1990 led to widespread public discussion on Britain's educational problems and the establishment of a National Education Commission on which he served. Sir Claus continues with his work on educational research and policy, notably on post-school education and was appointed Chairman of the Basic Skills Agency in 1997.

Jewish causes

When discussing the celebration of this year's 60th Anniversary of the AJR, of which he is a member, his involvement and enthusiasm were much in evidence. Sir Claus sees no contradiction in his proud and public support for Jewish and Israeli causes among the many to which he gives generously of his time and expertise. Nevertheless, he is struck by the differences between refugee attitudes. Some happily became anglicised and chose to bury their Jewish origins, while at the other extreme were those who never managed to reconcile themselves to their adopted country. Sir Claus sees himself as being somewhere in the middle, "settled very happily in England, yet conscious of my roots in Berlin". A man forever connected to his Jewish boyhood in Germany.

INSIDE THE AJR

Manchester

AJR's Northern Group rose to a challenge put by their guest speaker Ronald Channing, AJR's Head of Community Relations, and agreed to ask their children and grandchildren if they would like to read the new AJR Journal and, perhaps, to join the AJR themselves.



*Werner Lachs
AJR Northern Group Chairman*

Ronald was invited by Northern Group's energetic chairman, Werner Lachs, to consider 'The AJR in the New Century'. After reminding members of the AJR's comprehensive range of services presently being enjoyed by provincial members, he saw the future as one of opportunity and interest, not one of inevitable decline. It was time for members to debate and decide in which areas and in support of which new endeavours the AJR's resources and moral authority should eventually be directed.

Among the current developments he discussed were a new membership recruitment brochure, an AJR website, setting up more AJR groups in other parts of the country, the introduction of AJR-aided Holocaust Remembrance Day events on university campuses, and the publication of a new style AJR Journal aimed at attracting younger contributors and members. This year, being the AJR's 60th Anniversary, the possibility of a German-Jewish 'Contribution to Britain' exhibition



*Ronald Channing,
guest speaker in Manchester*

visiting Manchester's Jewish Museum was explored, accompanied by a history being written by Dr Anthony Grenville. The possibility of inviting Manchester University to carry out a joint project with one of its oldest refugee populations would also be investigated.

A prolonged question and answer session included debate on changing AJR's name and the apparent lack of progress in building Manchester's Museum of the Shoah.

Next meeting: The Demise of British Operetta and Musicals, given by Aubrey and Esther Kreike on Sunday 17th December, 2pm at the Morris Feinmann Home. Newcomers are most welcome.

Leeds

Dayan Refson gave a sensitive and moving account of the differences between mourning and remembering. During the mourning period, mourners are absorbed in their grief which enables them to come to terms with their loss. By contrast, remembering can be a beautiful and healing process. He described the Holocaust as a time of violence and isolation. Survivors experienced anger and numbness, some for many years. According to Jewish belief, everyone who died during the Holocaust was a *tsadik*, a righteous Jew. The same would apply to Holocaust survivors. The Dayan said those who were murdered should be honoured by the continuance of Judaism. This was true remembrance.

Lynda Groiser

Leeds HFSA AGM will be held on 21 January.

South London

On the occasion of SLAJR's sixth birthday, celebrated with cakes, Suzanne Mehard, senior administrator of Norwood Ravenswood talked about the history and development of the organisation. Founded in the nineteenth century as the Norwood orphanage, it developed - most recently through a merger with Ravenswood - into a service for families, with family centres in Edgware and Hendon. It employs over a thousand staff and a similar number of volunteers. Emergency and respite family care are offered as are family information, drama, special needs, and recreational, facilities and much more. Norwood Ravenswood is financed by local authorities and fund-raising.

Ruth Leggett

The next meeting will be on 18 January when Percy Gourgey MBE will speak on the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Brighton

Under the title 'Back to Gombin', and movingly illustrated by film footage from 1937 and recent filmed interviews with relatives of those in the earlier film, Sandra Barnett talked about this small town in Central Poland with a pre-war population of 7,500 of which one third were Jewish. Many of their relations emigrated in the early 1900s and found their way mostly to the USA but also, among other places, to Palestine and England. Virtually all the Jewish inhabitants living there at the time of the German invasion eventually perished in the labour camp of Konin or Chelmo extermination camp. A very active Gombin society - based in the USA with branches in Israel, Britain and elsewhere - organised a trip back to Gombin where with the active support of the local population a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust was placed in the re-dedicated Jewish cemetery.

One lesson to be learnt is that those who bemoan the disappearance of Jewish cemeteries throughout Poland must form their own associations to try and resurrect them rather than expect others to do it for them.

F Goldberg

There will be a 'social get-together' on 22 January

West Midlands

The next meeting will be on 28 January when Ronald Channing, AJR's Head of Media & Community Relations, will talk on 'The AJR in the Next Century'.

Pinner

The next meeting will be on 4 January when Hanna Graber will recall the life of Richard Tauber. On 1 February Sister Margaret Shepherd, Director of the CCJ will speak on 'Current Concerns'.

Surrey

A cheerful morning was spent in discussions ranging from the pleasure of meeting old and new friends to consideration of future gatherings with specific topics of general interest.

Vernon Saunders

There will be an informal get-together on 30 January at the home of Robert and Enid Miller. Details from Myrna Glass at AJR Head Office.

AJR Group Contacts

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Ken Ambrose 020 8852 0262

Surrey

Ernest Simon 01737 643 900

Brighton & Hove (Sussex Region)

Fausta Shelton 01273 688 226

Wessex (Bournemouth)

Ralph Dale 01202 762 270

AJR 'Drop in' Advice Centre at the

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

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between 10am and 12 noon on the
following dates:

Thursday 4 January

Wednesday 24 January

Tuesday 30 January

No appointment is necessary, but
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AJR VISIT TO The Imperial War Museum Holocaust Exhibition

on

Thursday 18 January 2001

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JANUARY Afternoon entertainment:

Mon	1	CLOSED - NEW YEAR'S DAY
Tue	2	NEW YEAR CONCERT - Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton with piano accompaniment
Wed	3	Primrose Powell accompanied by Helena Brown, piano
Thur	4	Paul Coleman on keyboard
Sun	7	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	8	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue	9	The Valerie Hewitt Show
Wed	10	Kate Harding, cello, accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth, piano
Thur	11	Sandra Anders & Peter Tarl, accompanied by Margaret Gibbs, piano
Sun	14	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	15	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue	16	Dorothy Sayers, piano & accordion
Wed	17	LUNCHEON CLUB
Thur	18	Live Music Entertainment
Sun	21	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	22	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue	23	Vivienne Trenner, soprano, accompanied by Daphne Lewis, piano
Wed	24	Roy Douglas on keyboard
Thur	25	Mark Rosen, accompanied by Daphne Lewis, piano
Sun	28	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	29	KARD & GAME KLUB
Tue	30	Jenny Kossew on accordion
Wed	31	Sue Kennett accompanied by Gordon Weaver, piano

Classified Adverts

Family Announcements

Birthday

Ilse Graham, née Roth, born in Breslau, daughter of Otto Roth, served four years in the Land Army. Congratulations on becoming 80 on 26 December 2000. Tel: 01483 504189.

Deaths

Glücksmann. Ilse Lasnitzki-Glücksmann, MD PhD DSc, Emeritus Fellow of Lucy Cavendish College, died suddenly on 15 October 2000 at the Hope Nursing Home aged 91. Born in Berlin on 20 December 1908, she fled Germany in 1933, and lived in Cambridge from 1938. Formerly of Porson Rd, she worked on cancer research for over 50 years at the Strangeways Research Laboratory. Widow of Dr Alfred Glücksmann and mother of Miriam.

Lewin. Gertrude Lewin, born in Berlin, passed away on 2 November aged 90 after a short illness. Sadly missed by her relatives in the USA and France and all her friends. We will always remember her with great affection

Classified

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Science Notebook

Prof Michael Spiro

The Greenhouse Effect

In December issue's Viewpoint, Ronald Channing drew attention to the serious climatic changes being brought about by the activities of mankind. These now augment, to a dangerous degree, a natural phenomenon called the greenhouse effect which is actually essential for our existence on planet Earth.

Let's start with the sun. Its surface temperature of 6000°C continuously radiates energy into space. A little bit of this reaches the Earth and keeps us warm. But to stop our planet becoming too warm, this incoming solar energy must be balanced by the Earth radiating energy back into space. The warmer the Earth's surface, the more energy it will radiate out. Calculation shows that balance will be achieved if the overall average temperature of the Earth's surface is -6°C. But that isn't true: the Earth's overall mean temperature is about +15°C. Just as well for our comfort and indeed our survival.

So what was wrong with the calculation above? It had been based on the assumption that the atmosphere around the Earth neither absorbs nor emits thermal radiation. This is quite correct for the nitrogen and oxygen gases which make up 99% of our atmosphere. But the remaining 1% contains water vapour and carbon dioxide (CO₂) which do absorb some of the thermal radiation leaving the Earth's surface. The surface must

therefore be 21°C warmer than calculated to allow the Earth to radiate enough energy out into space, to balance the solar energy coming in. This 'thermal blanket' of water vapour and CO₂ behaves rather like the glass in a greenhouse, freely allowing in the (short wavelength) radiant energy from the sun but absorbing some of the (long wavelength) thermal energy emitted from inside the greenhouse. These gases (together with some minor constituents like methane) are accordingly called greenhouse gases. This natural greenhouse effect is clearly 'a good thing' as far as life on Earth is concerned.

However, one can have too much of a good thing, and too much CO₂ in the atmosphere falls into this category. By the middle of the 20th century scientists began to point out that significant increases in CO₂ could be brought about by the actions of mankind, by burning more and more fossil fuels (which contain carbon) and by chopping down forests which absorb CO₂. This is now happening, producing what is called the enhanced greenhouse effect. Computer modelling has shown that this phenomenon will do more than simply raise the overall surface temperature of the Earth. Because the additional thermal energy in the atmosphere is not distributed uniformly, it gives rise to turbulent disturbances: storms, typhoons, tsunamis, and the like. These changed weather patterns can also produce extremes of droughts in some areas and floods in others. World events in recent years have certainly borne out these consequences of the enhanced greenhouse effect. That the Climate Change Conference at the Hague in November failed to agree on the rules for nations to reduce their CO₂ emissions cannot be final: we must hope for more sense in 2001.

Search notices

Kinder from Mühlheim, Duisberg, Oberhausen, Essen. German schoolteacher seeks contact with Kinder willing to communicate with children at his school as part of a project about the history of the Kindertransport. Please contact Oliver Decka, Hattingerstrasse 22, 44789 Bochum, Tel. 0049 234 3251437; Email: DeckaScherding@aol.com

Descendants of Max Löwenthal, born 28 Jan 1880 in Berlin, translator, and his wife **Käte Löwenthal** née Piorkowsky, born 27 Feb 1881 in Ratibor. Both lived at Bayreutherstr. 42, Berlin until emigrating to London in late 1930s. Sought by genealogical researcher in connection with estate in Germany. Please telephone 020 8908 0582 or contact Andrea Enderlein, R-Breitscheidstr. 208, 14482 Potsdam, Germany. Tel: 0049 331 710597. E-mail: ENDSCHU@t-online.de

Descendants of Jacques Krojanker, born 31.10. 1873, died 2.11. 1949 (probably in London) and his wife **Monika** born 17.8.1879. Lived in Berlin until 1938, then emigrated to London. Sought by genealogical researcher in connection with estate in Germany. Please telephone 020 8908 0582 or contact Andrea Enderlein, R-Breitscheidstr. 208, 14482 Potsdam, Germany. Tel: 0049 331 710597. E-mail: ENDSCHU@t-online.de

Obituary

Ilse Lasnitzki-Glücksman

Ilse Lasnitzki-Glücksman, who has died aged 91, was an internationally renowned cancer researcher based in Cambridge. Born in Berlin, she had a fraught upbringing. Her father, an unsuccessful businessman, died of epilepsy when she was eight and her agoraphobic mother had great difficulty making ends meet. As a child she was constantly hungry and often cold, and had to look after her mother when her two much older brothers joined the army during the First World War. From the age of 12 she earned money by giving lessons to younger pupils.

She was expected to leave school at 16 and do a secretarial course but insisted on staying on at school and later on studying medicine at university, much to the disapproval of her mother and brother. The former died of a stroke when Ilse was 21. By this time she had a circle of political and cultural friends, was an

active member of the communist youth organisation, and attended meetings where Einstein and Wilhelm Reich also participated. In April 1933 she was summoned by the director of medical studies and told to quit the hospital immediately.

After leaving Berlin, Ilse went first to Copenhagen and learned tissue culture, working unpaid in a laboratory. From Copenhagen she went to Basle and resumed her interrupted medical training, then on to Antwerp and experimental work. She returned to Basle and finished her studies, but was prohibited from staying in Switzerland after receiving her degree. At the end of 1938 helped by Honor Fell, Director of the Strangeways Research Laboratory in Cambridge, she arrived in England. Other refugee scientists at the lab included her future husband, Alfred Glücksman, a distinguished embryologist from Heidelberg. Her association with the Strangeways was to last for over 50 years and she remained in Cambridge for the rest of her life. She registered for a PhD at Newnham College,

based on the experiments she had done in Antwerp and completed her degree in 1943.

After the war, her daughter was born and her work went well, steadily gaining an international reputation in cancer research, cell biology and endocrinology. In the 1950s and 1960s she did pioneering experimental research on the carcinogenic effects of tobacco smoke on lung tissue and in the 1970s and 1980s on the effects of other carcinogenic agents, steroid hormones and vitamin A, on the prostate and bladder. She also developed new techniques of tissue and organ culture.

She was proud to become a Fellow of Lucy Cavendish, a new college for mature women students in 1968, and the following year she was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. In 1974 she went to Japan for the first time and embarked on a 15 year collaboration. She also collaborated with Professors Paul Robel and Etienne Beaulieu in Paris. She continued doing experimental work at the lab until 1991 when she was 82 years old. Ilse would want to be remembered primarily as a scientist, and as a woman scientist.

Jawne - a rather special school

Monica Lowenberg



Inset: Dr Erich Klibansky, Jawne Gymnasium headmaster 1900 - 1942 and the Jawne Gymnasium, Cologne

Housed in the grounds of the German school in Richmond, the Jawne exhibition - organised by the headmaster Gerd Köhncke and Irene Corbach - is the brainchild of the late Dieter Corbach, the synod's representative for Christian-Jewish dialogue in Cologne. Photographs and documentation lovingly detail the life before, and destruction during, National Socialism, of the Jewish school and the attempts to save it. The exhibition will be made available to other English schools as a media resource.

The city of Jawne, which after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD developed into the spiritual centre for the revival and rise of Judaism, was to become the inspiration for the Cologne-based grammar school. Founded in 1919, the school was granted only 23 years before it fell victim to the National Socialist terror. Dr Erich Klibansky, whose father had been cantor of Frankfurt's West End Synagogue for many years, became the school's headmaster between 1929-1942. Aware of how fragile and dangerous the situation for Jews had and would become under Nazism, Klibansky established, already in June 1933, the Community of Interests of the Jewish secondary schools in Germany. By 1937, he had initiated steps to transfer the entire Jawne school to England and with the November Pogrom of 1938, took



Former Jawne Gymnasium pupils with two of their teachers.

From left: Siggy Reichenstein, Susan Mattes, Rolf Schild OBE, Fritz Bauchwitz, Lore Robinson, Ralph Blumenau, Dr Feo Kahn (former teacher) and Raphael Loewe (former teacher).
[Photo Monica Lowenberg]

immediate action.

Four hundred pupils wanted to join Klibansky and have him arrange refuge for them in hostels and with families based in London, Liverpool, Brighton and Manchester. Between January and June 1939, Klibansky organised and accompanied four transports of Jawne pupils, saving the lives of one hundred and thirty children. In contrast, he was shot, with his wife Meta and 1164 deportees from Cologne, by an SS commando in Minsk in July 1942. One hundred and eighteen of the deportees were children under 10. On 28 November this year, Dr Erich Klibansky would have been one hundred years old.

Some eighty people, including a small group of former pupils and teachers of the Jawne Gymnasium, Cologne, attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition and heard Fritz Bauchwitz, a former Jawne pupil, summarise movingly: "We all love to reminisce about our youth, about our school days, but memories of the Jawne have two diametrically opposed aspects: the happy memories of a sheltered existence among friends and among teachers, whom we recognise in retrospect to have been outstanding personalities; and the memories of the utter destruction of an institution and of the loss of so many who had grown to be almost as close to us as our own families."

Newsround

Berlin Memorial go-ahead

Construction of Berlin's Holocaust Memorial should begin this autumn following authorisation by the Bundestag of an annual budget allocation of seven million Deutschmarks (£2.25 million). The memorial is to be sited between the Brandenburg Gate and the Potsdamer Platz.

No acknowledgement

The UK's first Holocaust Memorial Day, marked this month, will not include reference to the 1915 Armenian genocide. The Home Office has informed the Armenian Assembly that the focus will be on "the Nazi Holocaust and more recent atrocities that raise similar issues."

Finnish apology

A monument has been unveiled commemorating the deportation of Jewish refugees from Finland to Estonia in November 1942. Handed over by the Finnish authorities to the Gestapo, all but one of the refugees perished in Auschwitz.

Austria's newest synagogue

Financed by the city of Graz, a new synagogue has been inaugurated in Austria's second largest Jewish community. In recognition of the occasion, an historic meeting was arranged between representatives of Graz's Catholic and Jewish communities to discuss today's Christian-Jewish relations.

Bank probe

An external investigation, funded by the banks, is to take place into alleged dealings with Holocaust victims' dormant accounts in Israeli banks. The terms of reference have been criticised by at least one member of the Knesset Commission of Inquiry through whom the investigation is to be organised.

Spoils of aryanisation

Photographs of objets d'art and furniture, looted from Jews after the Anschluss and stored in the State Depot of Movables in Vienna, form part of an exhibition staged in the Depot, documenting the history of expropriation.

On the wanted list

Warrants for the arrest on fraud charges of Russian media moguls Boris Berezovsky and Vladimir Gusinsky have been issued by a Moscow court. Both men were out of the country at the time of the issue and are thought unlikely to return.