

AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

Race - the 'big issue'?

Over the last few weeks race has evolved into a major issue in the General Election campaign. This came hard on the heels of a series on BBC radio which described race as the single greatest cause of mayhem in human history. Not everybody concurred - with some critics arguing that the worst of the scourges that have habitually plagued mankind was religion rather than race. These critics overlook the fact that in many global trouble spots racial and religious divisions overlap. For instance, while it may look to the outside world that in Ireland Catholic and Protestant brothers are pitted against one another, in fact the Catholics are all of Celtic origin whereas most Protestants are descended from Scots and Englishmen (hence the place name Londonderry) 'planted' there by Elizabeth and James I.

Similar racial-religious overlaps occurred in Eastern Europe, most notably in Poland. When Poland suffered partition and loss of statehood at the hands of Russia, Prussia and Austria in the 18th century, the battle lines were drawn with surgical precision. On one side stood the Catholic Poles - and on the other their mortal enemies, the Orthodox Russians and the Lutheran Prussians. (Being fellow-Catholics, the Austrians were less resented, though they allowed Galicia to stagnate). Of course, in those days 'race' was not the dominant concept it was to become in the late 19th and early 20th centuries thanks to



Maximilian Kolbe

Gobineau and Hitler. Although the Catholic Poles clearly saw themselves as a homogeneous entity, the race-obsessed Nazi occupiers set out to plunder their gene pool through the Eindeutschung ('germanisation') of the more Nordic-looking ones among them. A Pole accepted for germanisation could thus escape the near-subhuman status the Nazis assigned to Slavs at the cost of shedding his national and cultural identity. Something not dissimilar had happened to the 18th century Frankists - Polish Jewish followers of the false Messiah Jakob Frank - who had de-judaised themselves by following him into the Catholic fold.

Of course, no such way out presented itself to Polish Jewry in the 1940s. The German race fanatics were bent on their destruction and many

Poles, far from thinking of converting the Jews, sought to profit from their misery. This was the case at Jedwabne whose Polish inhabitants perpetrated a massacre of the local Jews in July 1941 and then took over their houses. Greed was certainly a motivating factor, for all that the alibi of the Jews acting as KGB agents during the preceding Soviet occupation is always trotted out. It is a moot point whether this lethal Polish antisemitism was racial or religious in origin. Given the uniquely dominant role of the Church in Polish life, the attitude of Cardinal Hlond, instigator of the anti-Jewish boycott in the 1930s, must have been crucial. (Even Father Maximilian Kolbe, a canonised martyr of the Nazi occupation, expounded antisemitism before the war.)

As we turn our gaze from the realm of drama and beastliness that is Eastern Europe to 'election-gripped' Britain, we have difficulty in deciding whether the century-long decline in religion is to be welcomed or regretted. Whatever one's view of that, there can be no doubt that race is now a live issue. This is a potentially threatening development, but maybe we can draw comfort from the fact that class consciousness - always a key factor in British life - sometimes counteracts race consciousness. Already a hundred years ago the intake into Harrow Public School was not uniformly white-skinned. One Harrovian possessor of a brown skin was the Brahmin - i.e. top-caste - Indian, Jawaharlal Nehru.

Dangerous truth

When the Hungarian Parliament staged its first Holocaust memorial ceremony in late April, twelve extreme rightwing deputies stayed away. Their leader, Istvan Czurka, told Hungarian radio that he felt "victims of Communism and the Holocaust are the same." This is, of course, arrant nonsense - victims of the Shoah outnumber casualties of the Budapest Uprising by a hundred to one. In addition, it harps subliminally on the *Zhidekommunism* myth, which casts the Jews as germ carriers of Communism. (Though the Jewish 'Prime Ministers' Bela Kun [1919] and Matyas Rakosi [1948-54] were both Communists, their co-religionists tended to be middle-class and religiously observant.)

To blunt the impact of the Far Right's boycott, the Speaker of the House, Janos Ader, asserted that the fate which befell Hungarian Jewry in 1944 did not reflect the will of most Hungarians. This assertion was challenged by Matyas Eörsi, a Jewish opposition deputy. The sad truth is that Eörsi was right. In the 19th century the gentry who ruled Hungary encouraged Jewish entrepreneurial talent for the sake of the country's economic growth, and the community flourished. The situation changed drastically when the lost 1914-18 War and a Communist interlude led to Admiral Horthy's semi-dictatorship and the Depression. The Horthy government enacted the *numerus clausus*, and other discriminatory measures against the Jews, which met with popular approval. Nor does the fervent commitment the gendarmerie brought to the roundup of Jews in 1944, and the army's sadistic treatment of Jewish conscripts in labour battalions bear out Speaker Ader's statement.

On the other hand, it may be politically more expedient to argue along the lines of the Speaker. After all, if the Hungarian people were really genocide-minded, then the murderous Arrow Cross thugs were in tune with the majority - which is one of the definitions of democracy.

RG

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Reaching out to refugees from Nazi persecution

Ronald Channing

The AJR is reaching out to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who may still not have benefited from support services or funds to which they might be entitled.

In its 60th anniversary year, the AJR is inviting its members, as well as members of the wider Jewish community, to help identify and make contact with all unaffiliated Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution and survivors of the Holocaust living in Britain, some of whom may be in urgent need of guidance or help.

Synagogues, community centres and communal organisations in all parts of the country have been sent copies of a specially-produced brochure entitled 'Friends for Life', ready-packaged in an attractive clear plastic dispenser. Synagogue secretaries and organisation directors have been asked to place the brochures on prominent display in places where their members and visitors usually congregate.

The 'Friends for Life' brochure details

AJR's services - advice and guidance, social welfare, meals-on-wheels, sheltered accommodation, regional groups, publications - and invites enquiries and applications for membership. Even at this comparatively late stage it is believed that many former refugees and Holocaust survivors would welcome an opportunity to reconnect with their Jewish roots. Together with other former victims of Nazism within the community, they may still be unaware of the range of services available to them as AJR members, or of the guidance on pensions, reparations, compensation or other payments to which they may be entitled.

If you know of anyone entitled to be a member of the AJR and believe that they might wish to join, please obtain a copy of the new membership application brochure for them from: AJR Membership Secretary, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1A Frogna, London NW3 6AL.

Liaison officer with OSHA

Ruth Finestone has been appointed by the AJR to offer extra comfort and support to members of the AJR living either in OSHA's residential homes in The Bishop's Avenue, in their sheltered accommodation at Otto Schiff House in Hampstead, or in Eleanor Rathbone House in Highgate.

Ruth will liaise with OSHA social workers and the Heads of Homes to sort out any queries and problems and, in addition to visiting AJR members already in residence, will befriend members awaiting confirmed admission, either to the homes or to sheltered accommodation. She will also keep the AJR fully informed of their progress.

The daughter of German and Austrian refugee parents, Ruth has served the AJR for more than 20 years, her first job being admissions officer for the refugee homes in The Bishop's Avenue, and later as an AJR social worker. She is married and is very proud of her three children and seven grandchildren!

Regular visits are planned by her to The Bishop's Avenue Homes on Mondays and Otto Schiff House and Eleanor Rathbone House on Tuesdays. To make certain of meeting her it is best to make an appointment with the Head of Home.

LBI archive branches out

Documents collected by the New York Leo Baeck Institute over more than forty years will soon be accessible in Europe. Thanks to an agreement between the LBI and the new Berlin Jewish Museum, a branch of the LBI will operate from the Museum, headed by an archivist. Both institutions will also co-operate in the collection and preservation of photographs, personal papers and artefacts, above all from European sources. The arrangement brings together two institutions whose task is to document and transmit to future generations German-Jewish history and culture. The LBI catalogues and collection in Berlin will be predominantly microfilmed copies which can be accessed by researchers.

White - (and Black-) washing

Richard Grunberger

When dictatorships are set up artists take flight. Toscanini fled Mussolini's Italy, Rachmaninov and Chagall Soviet Russia, and Thomas Mann, Hindemith and Beckmann Nazi Germany. To offset this palpable loss of their cultural substance, authoritarian regimes occasionally seduce selected exiles into returning. Stalin induced Sergei Prokofiev to resettle in Russia in the mid-thirties. A little earlier a Goebbels emissary had tried to lure Erich Maria Remarque back to Germany from California. When the author of *All Quiet on the Western Front* rejected this overture the emissary predicted that homesickness would plague him for the rest of his days - to which Remarque retorted "What do you think I am, a German Jew?"

Goebbels had more success with the film Director WG Pabst - of *Dreigroschenoper* fame - who returned to Germany from French exile in 1939. When, barely a year later, France collapsed, its cultural élite faced the same challenge as their German colleagues had done in 1933. Sad to relate, they did not acquit themselves any better. Collaboration with the occupier was widespread - alike in the spheres of high and popular culture. The situation in the latter was characterised by an incident involving the singer-songwriter Charles Trenet (who happened to look rather like Harpo Marx). When a newspaper carried a false report of Trenet's death, the singer sent out thousands of cards bearing the legend 'I am not dead - and neither am I a Jew'. The writer Colette, revered as a national symbol already in her lifetime, churned out pernicious Pétainist literature. She subsequently claimed she had cultivated close contacts with Vichy and its German puppet-masters to protect her Jewish husband (which she, indeed, managed to do).

The view posterity takes of leading personalities of the Nazi era, particularly in Germany and France, is in a process of constant revision and manipulation. A good example was *Taking Sides*, Ronald Harwood's play about Wilhelm Furtwängler. In it the playwright, anxious not to appear judgmental at any cost, depicted the conductor as an apolitical artist insulated from events, and only intent on presenting music of the highest standard to the German

public. (In consequence Harwood took a more lenient view of Furtwängler than the better informed Thomas Mann, for instance.)

Another Nazi era celebrity to benefit posthumously from exculpation by a British playwright was Werner Heisenberg (of 'Uncertainty Principle' fame) whom Hitler had put in charge of the Nazi nuclear bomb project. Theatregoers watching Michael Frayn's play *Copenhagen* may be forgiven for thinking that the Nobel laureate had deliberately retarded the German atomic programme. The dispiriting truth is, however, that Hitler's Nazi A-bomb had remained on the drawing board for no other reason than that a major error had crept into Heisenberg's mathematical calculations.

French culture heroes have been subjected to a different process of obfuscation. The influential Picasso lobby has long endeavoured to distract attention from the painter's less-than-honourable conduct under the Occupation. There is the apocryphal story about Wehrmacht officers visiting his Paris studio, catching sight of *Guernica* and asking 'Did you do that?' and Picasso returning the courageous answer 'No, you did!'

In reality he failed to intercede on behalf of his Jewish friend, the poet-painter Max Jacob who was at Drancy en route to Auschwitz. Given the Nazis' stake in projecting occupied Paris as the European city of culture, such intercession would not have had drastic consequences for its first citizen. A member of the Picasso lobby must also have alleged that the blameless Henri Matisse was a Gestapo collaborator - a *canard* presumably intended to divert attention from Picasso's wartime record. (Readers of the quality press may remember that John Mortimer had originally repeated the canard, but speedily published a full retraction.)

Last but not least, in 1945 Picasso joined the French Communist Party still trailing clouds of *résistance* glory, and a little later he painted the *Dove of Peace*, emblem of the worldwide peace movement. Under the circumstances, how can Matisse's real record compete with Picasso's fake one?

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Chronicling a 60-year refugee history

Symposium:

'AJR Information
as a Source for Research'

Thursday 7 June, 2pm

The Institute of Germanic Studies,
29 Russell Square, London WC1

In recognition of six decades of continuous monthly publication of *AJR Information*, the Universities of London and Sussex, in cooperation with the AJR, are conducting a half-day symposium. Celebrating a remarkable publishing achievement, the participants will focus on the historical importance of the journal as a source for the study of the experiences of Jewish refugees who fled to Britain from Nazi Germany.

Contributors include Sir Claus Moser (recently elevated to the House of Lords), Prof Rüdiger Görner (Director of the University of London's Institute of Germanic Studies), Prof Edward Timms (University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies), Prof John Grenville (University of Birmingham), Dr Anthony Grenville (AJR historian), and Richard Grunberger (Editor, *AJR Information*).

Sixty years ago this month, Britain's immigrant community of victims of Nazi persecution founded the Association of Jewish Refugees. Their wartime newsletter, whose size and content were restricted by paper shortages, was succeeded by *AJR Information*, the first issue of which appeared in January 1946. It set out its principle objectives as keeping its readers "informed about the position of Jewries on the Continent...and the work of their relief and rehabilitation; to bring into contact the members of the AJR with the immigrants overseas" and to "report on the activities of the Association, both of its Head Office in London, and of the various branches and groups in the provinces." These principles are sustained to this day.

All are welcome to attend. To reserve a place and attend the subsequent AJR reception at Senate House, please telephone the Institute of Germanic Studies on 020 7862 8965/6. (Cheques for £15 are payable to the University of London IGS).

Posthumous discovery Oliver Pretzel

My father, Sebastian Haffner, might not have been pleased to see his book *Geschichte eines Deutschen* published. He died in 1999 at the age of 91, a celebrated German author and historical journalist, with a reputation for books containing highly original, coolly and lucidly argued insights into German twentieth-century history. This book, the first he ever wrote, started in exile in England in 1938 and abandoned a year or so later, may be original and lucid, but it is not cool. It is the passionate outburst of a young man whose career has been cut off and whose life has been turned inside out by his own countrymen, following a leader and an ideology he views only with contempt and disgust. In his cool old age, my father tended to be slightly ashamed of the early works he had published in England. What would he have thought of this one, unfinished, raw, and revealing so much of his inner self?

The book vividly describes my father's life and the political events in Germany from 1914, when he was seven years old, until 1933. Reading it, one has the feeling of a headlong rush into the abyss - and the speed of the writing matches the speed of the events. It was doubtless intended to continue up to his emigration to England in 1938, but the advent of the war caused him to stop work on it and start on another more urgent work that became *Germany, Jekyll and Hyde*, the start of a major career in English journalism.

In 1954 my father returned to Germany where he embarked on a second even more successful career, which reached its peak with his much-praised *Anmerkungen zu Hitler*. He continued to write throughout his seventies, but after 1990, his 83rd year, he became progressively weaker and eventually stopped writing altogether.

He was not much given to personal reminiscence, but he did refer to the early manuscripts he kept in a side-

cupboard of his desk. He suggested I should go through them after his death, but forbade me to read any during his lifetime. When he died, I started looking through them, mainly searching for an early novel he had praised. There, I stumbled across the manuscript of *Geschichte eines Deutschen*. It came as a complete surprise. My father had never mentioned it to me. I was immediately fascinated and read it in a single sitting, but was unsure whether my enthusiasm was due to personal involvement. I gave it to read to a journalist friend whose enthusiasm decided me to try to publish it.

I am currently engaged in translating the book into English. No doubt my father would have modified the text had he been alive to see it published. He would certainly have lowered the temperature. He might have added chapters covering events between 1933 and 1938. How I regret that he never got round to writing those! However, I do not think he would have changed his analysis of the events the book describes.

Geschichte eines Deutschen by Sebastian Haffner is reviewed on page 9.

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Anglo-Jewry and the Refugees from the Continent

Dr Anthony Grenville

The German and Austrian refugees who arrived in Britain between 1933 and 1940 came overwhelmingly from the urban centres of German-speaking Jewry. Their social culture - metropolitan and refined - was very different from that of Anglo-Jewry, the largest section of whom were descended from the Eastern European Jews who had emigrated from the *shtetls* of Russia at the turn of the century. The Continental Jews were predominantly assimilated and secularised, having determinedly put behind them the customs, way of life and appearance of the ghettos; they were largely drawn from the highly-educated and cultured middle classes, upwardly mobile both professionally and socially.

Assimilation on the Continent

The middle-class Jews of the German-speaking cities had embraced assimilation with enthusiasm. Inevitably, this meant that they moved away from traditional forms of religious observance and from the associated values and customs. Once religion had ceased to be at the heart of their daily life, these Jews espoused the secular values of German-speaking culture, the veneration for '*Bildung*', for the liberal, humanistic values of Kant and Lessing, Goethe and Schiller and Beethoven. Of course, this did not apply to all German-speaking Jews, but to enough of them to set them sharply apart from the *Ostjuden*, the largely rural Jews of Eastern Europe (or those of them who did not come from the larger towns and cities), who remained true to the familiar values of the *shtetl*, based on religious observance, a traditional way of life, and a culture far removed from the modern high culture of the Western cities. When they came to the cities, they were seen by the assimilated Jews as strange, exotic throwbacks to a world that they, the Western Jews, had long put behind them and of which they were not keen to be reminded. In return, the *Ostjuden* regarded the assimilated Jews as having abandoned the ancestral faith and as no longer Jewish in the full sense of the

word. The assimilated Jews reacted with outright distaste and dismay to the arrival of the *Ostjuden*, who, they feared, would provoke antisemitism among the gentile population and would hamper the process of assimilation. The potential for mistrust and even hostility between the two groups was increased even more by the patronising way in which the wealthier urbanised Jews dispensed charity to their indigent Eastern cousins.

When it came to emigrating to Britain, the middle-class Jews from the cities had all the advantages, whereas the poor, Orthodox, unassimilated Jews who inhabited areas like Vienna's Leopoldstadt or Berlin's Scheunenviertel were not so fortunate. Had these unassimilated Jews escaped in significant numbers to Britain, they would very likely have developed closer relations with their cousins from Eastern Europe, already settled in areas like the East End, than did the assimilated Jews from prosperous, German-speaking backgrounds. A pointer here is language: Yiddish was commonly spoken in districts like the Leopoldstadt, as it was in the East End or Stoke Newington, whereas those middle-class Jews who had acculturated to German-language educated society mostly shunned Yiddish.

Commonality with British Jews

The largest section of Anglo-Jewry in the 1930s consisted precisely of those who had come over from Eastern Europe between 1881 and 1914 to escape the Tsarist pogroms, and of their descendants. They had not undergone the process of acculturation in the German-speaking cities. They had arrived from the East, poor, observant and still largely unaccustomed to the world of the modern West, and had settled in working-class areas like the East End. Though by 1933 they had assimilated to a degree into British society, the process differed considerably from that of their German-speaking cousins, not least in the preservation of a sense of communal identity founded on



Dr Anthony Grenville

religious observance and the Jewish practices and customs associated with it. Their advance into the professional classes also took place in a different way, with evident commercial success, but with less prominence in the realm of high culture and education. By and large the British Jews had retained more from their Eastern European origins than had the Jews who fled to Britain in the 1930s from Central Europe; this provided the conditions for the antipathy between the 'Eastern' and 'Western' Jews to be recreated in Britain.

One clear sign of the different self-image and social aspirations of the two groups was provided at a very early stage by the initial areas of settlement, which formed the subject of a perceptive article in *AJR Information* as early as July 1948: "In Germany, the Jew was assimilated and belonged to the middle class. In the London East End the Jew belonged to a Jiddish speaking proletarian stratum, though at a later stage either he or his children managed to improve their position. Many misunderstandings between the refugees from Germany and other sections of the Anglo-Jewish community may be explained by this different background. The dispossessed refugee did not start at the lowest rung of the ladder in Whitechapel but, penniless as he was, took his furnished room in Hampstead or other North-Western parts of town."

This was the background against which a clash of cultures between the two groups was to be played out. (*To be continued*)

This is an edited extract of a lecture given at The Wiener Library.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right
to shorten correspondence
submitted for publication

VIVE LA DIFFÉRENCE

Sir - There would appear to be a simple answer to the question raised by Richard Grunberger concerning the different pattern of behaviour between refugees of German and Austrian origin. It was claimed that Austria was the first victim of Hitler's Germany, rather than its enthusiastic partner. As a result, it was quite acceptable to publicise one's Austrian background whilst one was keen to hide one's German background. There was, therefore, no enthusiasm for forming German organisations. This attitude also applied after the war - hardly surprising considering the truth had not reached the British public until a short time ago.

*Edward Levy
London SW1*

ISRAEL AT THE CROSSROADS

Sir - In response to Martha Blend's report (April 2001), any lawyer knows that a dispute is capable of resolution by negotiation only if there is prior agreement as to the underlying legal basis, in this case the system of law applicable. That absent, neither the original claim to the Land of Israel nor individual confiscation of an area of it can be expected to be acceptable to the Arab people.

If the creation of modern Israel had depended not on a UN vote but on the decision of an international court of law, is it not likely that it would have been qualified by a rider: "Yes, but you must, after two thousand years, take it as you find it."?

*Alan S Kaye
Chalfont St Giles, Bucks*

TOO MUCH COMPLAINING

Sir - To run down Britain as Ronald Channing does in two articles (April 2001) is unfair and will achieve nothing. I remember, working as a young person in the West End, that the underground carriages in rush hour were jam packed; on the command 'mind the doors' station staff gave a mighty heave similar to the current practice in Japan. And do I detect a hint of envy when he speaks of cars

being only for those "with expense accounts or the super rich"? I am prepared to bet there will be a few AJR members among the many drivers causing traffic jams.

*HE Reiner
London NW7*

ELEANOR RATHBONE

Sir - Susan Cohen (April 2001) should note that not all 'enemy aliens' were interned in 1940. My mother and I were not, nor were many others.

*Mrs E Trent
London N6*

THE HOLOCAUST INDUSTRY

Sir - Edwin Black's latest book on the involvement of IBM in the Holocaust shocks. Suffering is suffering but when industry and commerce take over, it is a disaster.

*Ruth Leggett,
London SW16*

LAW 'N ORDER

Sir - There should be a national drive to eliminate the drug pushers and dealers (April 2001). They should be heavily punished as quasi murderers and their ill-gotten gains confiscated. Pity we can't exile them to Devils' Island as of old!

*EA Kaufman
Harrow, Middlesex*

PROVIDING A HOME

Sir - I would certainly have given a home to an 'unknown' child (April 2001) provided he/she had a grammar school education, was 'brainy' and had a special talent for classical music, art or serious acting and came from a 'good' family where parents cared about their progress. It is a great pity that such children were allowed to rot in hostels and face a lifetime of domestic service. I was one of them. No full-time study or government grants for us.

*Mrs A Saville
London NW4*

Sir - In 1939, a Gentile woman took me and my two sisters into her humble home. At the time, we were too stunned

to comprehend her magnanimous deed. I recall snobbish refugee acquaintances making derogatory comments about this good woman. But she coped with three unknown children showing them kindness and compassion and saving them from the brutalities that awaited the others. I admit that in similar circumstances I think I would have hesitated to take one or more children into my home on a permanent basis.

*Mrs L Selo
London NW11*

Sir - Congratulations to Jonathan Harris and Deborah Oppenheimer for their presentation of the stories in *Into the Arms of Strangers* and on the Academy Award. I was one of the fortunate Kinder who left Speyer in January 1939 and got to Dovercourt via Hook of Holland and Harwich. I was 11 when I last saw my mother who was allowed to accompany us as far as the Dutch border. I was at school in Bunce Court in Kent and was evacuated to Shropshire in May 1940. In 1942 I worked for 6 months for Lord Rothschild at Waddesdon Manor. Were it not for the humanitarian kindness of the British, I would not be alive and writing to you.

*Henry D Mayer
Longwood, Florida, USA*

KULTURPAPST

Sir - Over the last few months the Journal has become rather strident. The Editor is adopting a bitter tone towards life in Germany and Austria. He has not given a fair account of Reich-Ranicki. He would be happy if he earned a quarter of Reich-Ranicki's income. It is no good Mr Grunberger ranting all the time because it will not get us anywhere.

*EJ Freyhan
London NW4*

Sir - I found the article on Marcel Reich-Ranicki (April 2001) of great interest and was only sorry it did not contain more detail about his activities as 'Kulturpapst'. It may be of interest to your readers to know that his son is a well-known mathematician in this country. Professor Andrew Ranicki, at Edinburgh University, whose research is in topology, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and recipient of the 1983 Whitehead Prize and 1994 Senior Berwick Prize.

*Prof PM Cohn
London N2*

Central Office For Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

Claimants in the Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation will be sent court notices outlining how the \$1.25 billion Swiss Bank Settlement is to be allocated.

The plan of distribution describes six classes of victim, for which there are separate claim procedures:

- 1) Deposited assets - applications for a dormant Swiss bank account.
- 2) Slave Labour I - applies to anyone used as slave labour anywhere for an entity under Nazi occupation.
- 3) Looted Assets Group - claimants in this class will not receive compensation. Instead, organisations working with victims will be allocated monies for their own dispersal.
- 4) Refugee claims - victims denied entry into, or detained and abused in, Switzerland will be eligible under the Swiss Refugee Programme.
- 5) Swiss Insurance Claims - for victims who held insurance policies with Swiss Insurance companies.
- 6) Slave Labour II - specific to those victims used as labourers for a Swiss-run company.

Most eligible claimants in classes 1) and 4) will automatically receive the relevant application forms. A list of the names of account owners with assets in Swiss banks is available on the Internet at www.crt-ii.org

Holocaust victims used as slave labourers (class 2) and who are eligible for compensation from the German Foundation: Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future will automatically be entitled to an additional award from the Swiss Bank Settlement. It will not be necessary to complete an extra form.

Heirs of victims who died on or after 16 February 1999 may be entitled to claim under classes 2) (Slave Labour I) and 4) (Swiss Refugee Programme).

Additional forms and information are available from the Central Office for Holocaust Claims.

Further help

Written enquiries should be sent to Central Office for Holocaust Claims (UK), 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Froggnal, London NW3 6AL. For assistance with the completion of application forms please telephone 020 7431 6161 for an appointment.

Arts and Events Diary June

10 - 14 **Summer Institute: "Four Things"**. Guest scholar Danny Siegel, highly acclaimed author, poet and educator. Sternberg Centre 020 8349 5622.

Mon 11 **Ebbe Koger: How the revolution came to the countryside**: Social and political change in South Germany 1968-78. Club 43. 7.45 pm.

Wed 13 **Raoul Wallenberg** - panel discussion. LJCC. 8pm.

Sun 17 **The Trial of Richard Wagner**: mock trial with authorities on Wagner for the prosecution and defence. LJCC 7pm. Tickets £15 to include refreshments. 0207 431 0345 for ticket availability.

Mon-18 **Dr Zhores Medvedev: Boris Yeltsin: from senior Bolshevik to 'Czar'**. Club 43. 7.45 pm.

19 - 21 **The Shtetl** - international conference. Institute of Archaeology, London WC1. Admission free. Institute of Jewish Studies.

Wed 20 **Remembering Jan Karski**. Panel discussion. LJCC. 8pm.

24 - 26 **Conference on Judeo-Spanish Studies**. Keynote speaker: Yitzhak Navon. Enrolment details from Institute of Jewish Studies.

Mon 25 **Deutsche Lyrik in London** (in German). Readers include Juergen Diethel, Dorothea McEwan and Ingrid Stoll. Club 43. 7.45 pm.

Until 24 **The Disputation by Hyam Maccobi**. New End Theatre, Tues-Sats 7.30 pm, Suns 3.30 pm. £16/£14 (concs). 020 7794 0022.

Until 27 Aug **Legacies of Silence: The Visual Arts & the Holocaust**. The contribution of artist-witnesses and survivors to post-war culture and the arts. Imperial War Museum.

Mon 2 Jul **Club 43 AGM**. 7.45 pm.

1 - 4 July **Festival of Klezmer Music and Yiddish Culture**. Jewish Music Institute, SOAS. 020 7898 4308.

Until December Exhibition of Jewish cartoonists. Jewish Museum, Finchley.

Organisation Contacts

Club '43, Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig. Tel: 01442 254360

Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Rd., London SE1 6HZ. 020 7416 5320

Institute of Jewish Studies, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.

Tel 020 7679 3520. Email: uclhvtm@ucl.ac.uk

London Jewish Cultural Centre (LJCC), The Old House, c/o Kings College, Kidderpore Ave., London NW3 7SZ. 020 7431 0345.

Sternberg Centre for Judaism/Jewish Museum, Finchley. 80 East End Road, London N3 2SY. Tel: 020 8346 2288/ 8349 1143.

*The AJR extends its warmest
congratulations to Sir Claus Moser
on his appointment to the
House of Lords.*

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES**
will be held on SUNDAY 17 June 2001
3 pm at 15 Cleve Road, London NW6

Agenda:-

Annual Report 2000

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Discussion

Election of committee of Management

Guest speaker: Lord Dubs

*All questions for the Chair should be
submitted by 28 May to the head of
Administration at: 1 Hampstead Gate,
1a Froggnal, London NW3 6AL*

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**CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE**

ARTS & REVIEWS

Art Notes

Gloria Tessler

The first tragic thing you notice about the works of Holocaust artists is the brief lifespan that appears under them; few lived beyond 1944. Age will certainly not wither the shocking subject matter which is their legacy to us. And in June, the art of the Holocaust makes its presence felt once more in London. **The Imperial War Museum** is showing 150 works of art produced in death camps, deportation centres and ghettos. **Legacies of Silence: The Visual Arts and Holocaust Memory** offers a grim testimony by artist witnesses, presenting all the imagery of death, the skeletal faces, huge eyes, cadaverous, huddled bodies, like **Felix Nussbaum's** skeleton playing the clarinet, the barbed wire, the look of why-me?

German Expressionists like **Emil Nolde**, **Ludwig Meidner**, **Max Beckmann**, and **Otto Dix** foreshadowed the terror of Nazism by depicting the horrors of early 20th Century Europe. But while non-Jewish post-war artists like **Zoran Music** or **Osias Hofstatter**, did not balk from presenting the dead body in all its grim detail, Jewish artists refrained through respect and sensitivity. Among the most moving tributes are the 'passport portraits' of European prisoners by **Francizek Jazwiecki**, who has taken care to include the first letter of their nationality on their prison uniform. The artist's attempts to present every nuance possible of his subjects' characters came from a desire to rebut the Nazis' cruelty in dehumanising their victims. Thus they look at you out of their frames, pleading, resigned, sad, powerless, accepting.

The London Jewish Cultural Centre celebrated Czech Jewish Culture with a month-long exhibition **Feigl and his Compatriots**. Marion Feigl, the



Yehuda Bacon - Portrait of a young girl.

artist's niece, donated 23 of the works shown, whose proceeds will help fund the work of the LJCC. Feigl was expelled at 21 from the Prague Academy of Art for his support of the avant garde movement but, after extensive travel in Europe, returned to Prague in 1905. He was drawn to the café society of old Europe, returning continually to paint it. His lightness of touch betrays the passion and depth behind each sketch. His family left Prague in 1939 during the occupation of the country on advice from Oskar Kokoschka and settled in Hampstead. Other artists featured include the Czech-born sculptor **Naomi Blake** who survived Auschwitz to fight in the War of Independence in Palestine before moving to London to study at the Hornsey School of Art and **Leo Haas**, a survivor of Theresienstadt.

The Boundary Gallery celebrates the work of the young artist, **Eva Frankfurter**, a Nazi refugee who came to Britain in 1939 but who committed suicide aged 29. Her paintings of London's immigrants, whether Caribbean or Jewish, convey the isolation of people at work or wandering the streets, with an expressionism redolent of Käthe Kollwitz. She provides a fleeting chronicle of the life and times of immigrant workers with all their pain, poverty, dislocation. Rather than dwell on the life she left behind, Frankfurter reflects on fractured incidents around her - excerpts of lives transported elsewhere. The exhibition continues until July 21.

RG's INTERFACE

Meiningen in Thuringia, once famous for its theatre-loving duke, has a theatre that doubles as an opera house. Undeterred by the proximity of Bayreuth, it is staging Wagner's *Ring*. This summer the designer, the Austrian sculptor Alfred Hrdlicka has given the dragon in *Siegfried* the features of Hitler.

Arnold Schönberg died in Los Angeles 50 years ago. The event is being commemorated by exhibitions in that city and in his native Vienna. The composer, a youthful convert to Christianity reconverted to Judaism in 1933 in response to the Nazi accession to power.

Otto Tausig's career trajectory has extended from the Young Austrian Players to the Vienna Burgtheater and French films. Though officially retired he is currently raising money for children in the Third World with his one-man show *Kasperl, Kummerl, Jud*.

Berg's temptation. The current run of Wedekind's *Lulu* at the Almeida Theatre reminds us of the fact that Alban Berg's opera of the same name also had diverse Jewish connections. For one, Berg dedicated it to his mentor Arnold Schönberg; for another the composer's premature death left the task of completing the score to Erwin Stein (father of the *Duchess of Harewood*). Coincidentally, the newspaper owner whom the scheming Lulu marries in the opera bears the Jewish name of Dr Schön. In 1935 the Vienna-based Berg, anxious to secure a German premiere for *Lulu*, put out feelers to the Nazi musical authorities. Would they, he wondered, overlook the 'atonality' of his score if he endowed Dr Schön with more negative Jewish characteristics. Unfortunately for the ailing composer - but fortunately for his posthumous reputation - the Nazis rebuffed Berg's approach, and the 'provisional' premiere of *Lulu* took place in Zurich in 1937.



Record Review

Erik Levi

One of the recent success stories of the recording industry has been the rise to prominence of the Naxos label which now commands a considerable share of the classical market.

Sceptics may argue that this success is entirely related to price: a Naxos compact disc retails at a third of the cost of most other new releases. But on serious examination, this argument doesn't hold water. Whereas other companies tend to offload re-issued performances on their cheaper labels and offer the listener little in the way of programme notes, Naxos recordings are modern and are packaged with exemplary documentation. More importantly, the Naxos label covers a considerable amount of repertory from the medieval era to the 20th century, allowing those with curiosity to explore a staggering range of music for very little financial outlay.

In previous years, I would have advised caution when sampling Naxos recordings of the standard orchestral and chamber music repertory since the artists featured on many of these discs are of variable quality. But with the arrival on the scene of the Naxos Historic label, this suggestion no longer holds water, for here the performances, dating from the 1920s to the 1950s, are truly memorable and are preserved in very adequate sound. Amongst the recent crop of releases on this label, the recordings of violinists Jascha Heifetz and Yehudi Menuhin surely occupy pride of place. In the case of Heifetz, there are numerous concerto discs that remind us of his staggering virtuosity, not least the irresistible combination of Tchaikovsky and Sibelius (8.110938), or the Mendelssohn generously coupled with two Mozart Concertos (8.110941). The Menuhin series is less comprehensive, but two discs of the great violinist playing unaccompanied Bach during the 1940s (8.110918 and 8.110964) should not be missed.

Reviews

Insightful and unsparing analysis

GESCHICHTE EINES DEUTSCHEN,
Sebastian Haffner,
Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, 2000.

He "emerged out of fathomless depths far below those plumbed by the cheapest penny dreadfuls - from a nether sphere where demons rise out of a rancid miasma concocted in *petit bourgeois* backrooms, doss-houses, barracks latrines and execution yards." This is how Sebastian Haffner described Hitler in *Geschichte eines Deutschen*, the autobiographical account he wrote on reaching Britain as a political émigré in 1939. It is a work written with impassioned revulsion under the immediate impact of events. The German style, to which I try to do justice in my translated opening paragraph, shows how right the author was as a young man to contemplate switching from legal studies - his father's chosen profession for him - to writing. More importantly, though, the completed manuscript evinces profound political insight - a gift which subsequently earned Haffner the unique distinction of being, consecutively, a prominent journalist both in Britain (*The Observer*) and Germany (*Die Welt* and *Der Stern*).

A prime example of his perceptiveness is the depiction of the national mood during Germany's Stresemann years, the period of stability between the run-away inflation and the Slump. I subscribe to the theory that the near-astronomical increase of Nazi votes in the 1930 election was not primarily caused by economic collapse (as is generally assumed) since the impact of the Wall Street Crash had not yet had time to bite. My supposition - namely that Hitler's electoral breakthrough owed much to first-time voters who chafed at having come into the world too late to share in the *Fronterlebnis* of the Great War - is borne out by Haffner. He advances the thesis that Stresemann's

creation of stability and uneventful routine was perceived by the majority of the population not as enrichment but as a form of deprivation. Haffner writes that in the wake of the Great War, the postwar upheavals, the Ruhr occupation, and the inflation in which millions could be lost (but also won), generations of younger Germans had become habituated to receiving all the impulses for deeper emotion - for love and hate, joy and sorrow - so to speak 'free of charge' from the public sphere. "They had never learnt to give meaning and beauty to their little private lives." The young, in particular, considered private life boring, bourgeois and belonging "to the day before yesterday."

He contrasts this with the French tradition of deriving enjoyment from indulgence in food, drinking, rhetoric and *l'amour*, and the English enjoyment of hobbies, gardening and the keeping of pets. Haffner also had the diagnostic skill to perceive as early as the 1930s that the majority of the fellow-countrymen he had left behind on emigrating were in a state bordering on mental illness. The correctness of his diagnosis was borne out by the fact that though the war was obviously lost by 1943, millions of Wehrmacht soldiers and munition workers continued giving their all for Führer and Fatherland for another two years. Such perverted devotion to a manifestly lost cause could not be secured by Gestapo terror, but only by the gradual atrophy of the nation's brain cells!

This is, all in all, a most valuable book. We, who have every reason to be anti-German, but would be blind not to acknowledge the post-war emergence of a different Germany, will also draw inspiration from the Goethe quotation "*Deutschland ist nichts, aber jeder einzelne Deutsche ist sehr viel.*" (Germany is nothing, but every single German counts for a great deal) which Haffner has chosen as the epigraph for his book. The news that an English translation is currently being prepared is to be warmly welcomed.

Poet who fell silent

WITH ALL FIVE SENSES,

Hans W Cohn, *Menard Press*.

The Breslau-born medical student Hans Cohn escaped from Prague to England in 1939. He became a bookseller and, later, a leading existential psychotherapist. Out of these influences he distilled his poetry, clear as water and, like water, mirroring our own reflections. He writes with compassion and self knowledge and his work is lean and sparing. When he has said what he needs to say, he stops. For instance, in *Birthday* he writes: *This year/led him to the very brink/of the question.*

If he did not wish to plunge down/ he had at last to turn and face the answer/ that stood behind him.

Haven't we all faced this truth when our birthday comes round yet again? Indeed, he gave up literary work in the seventies. As Michael Hamburger tells us in the Foreword: "Hans Cohn concentrated on the most essential and urgent human needs, and having found a sphere in which he could share and ease other people's sufferings, writing could no longer be of that essence." This collection of his last poems was translated lovingly by his brother, Frederick G Cohn, from the German volume *Mit Allen Fünf Sinnen*. Often he draws on the New Testament to illuminate the human condition. Parable poems are among his finest work as, for instance: *About him who stayed at home:*

But he is/ the older brother who does not squander money/does not take drugs... and knows/that the love of the father fattens a calf in the stable: it is not for him.

In the title poem *With all five senses* we sense his love of children and the influence of Existentialist thought with its emphasis on direct experience:

Sometimes/before falling asleep suddenly/ the taste of a different bread from childhood/crisp and sweet or even earthier/indescribable a taste of a country behind sleep.

Read this work. This poet, silent for years, brings us revelation and healing. It has been my privilege to review him.

Jill Bamber

Mystics, kings and dilemmas

THE DISPUTATION,

Hyam Maccoby, *New End Theatre*.

Spain's dark Jewish history had one moment of illumination some 200 years before the iniquitous Inquisition. While Jews were an eternal thorn in the side of the Dominican monks who demonised them, at least one Spanish monarch proved himself a man who liked fair play. King James of Aragon was a licentious, free-wheeling royal, but one partial to reasoned debate. This play considers the dilemmas placed before Moses Ben Nachman (Nachmanides) by the man he endearingly calls the Pagan King.

After Pope Gregory IX's 13th century ban on the Talmud, it became popular to hold public disputations between Judaism and Christianity in which Jews were effectively invited to concede to Christianity before converting. Maccoby has dramatised the Barcelona Disputation in which the philosopher-physician and mystic, Nachman, described by Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks as "one of Judaism's most subtle and expansive minds," walks an intellectual tightrope. How will he retain his Jewish integrity while combating the challenge of a Jewish convert, Pablo Christiani, on the Messiahship of Jesus? And how will he do it without committing blasphemy? The process that follows does not exactly 'catch the conscience of a king', but Nachman certainly wins James' admiration.

Robert Rietti gives an intense yet subtle performance of the troubled Dominican Raymond de Penaforte, who bends the King's ear, and while Leonard Fenton is occasionally hesitant over his lines as Nachman, this serves to enhance his impossible situation which he handles with such dignity. Hildegard Neil as the staunchly religious queen is a perfect foil to William Russell's laid-back and wayward King - he anticipating a faraway future of religious tolerance, she epitomising the exclusive one-way ticket to salvation.

The play runs until the end of June.

Gloria Tessler

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PROFILE

Marion Koebner

Arnold Paucker



Hahn's Salem and AS Neill's Summerhill. As an agricultural education establishment, it offered little to Arnold who "abandoned any form of school attendance...and evolved a course of reading to suit myself" during his three years as a student there. Thereafter he spent two years in Jerusalem, working where he could and attending occasional lectures - including those of Martin Buber - as an unregistered student at the Hebrew University. In 1941, he volunteered for the British Army (Royal Engineers), regarding it as his duty to fight against Nazism. He served in the Middle East until 1943 when he was posted to Italy where he remained until 1946, having witnessed the liberation of Northern Italy. His stay in the country contributed in two major ways to his future life: it instilled in him a love of Italy and its culture. But most importantly, he met his future wife Pauline whilst in Florence.

Marrying an English girl meant that Arnold came to live in England where at the age of 30, for two years, working as an export clerk in Birmingham during the day, he studied and took exams to

Later this year, the youthful and energetic Arnold Paucker (he celebrated his 80th birthday this year) bids farewell to the desk he has occupied for forty-two years as Director of the Leo Baeck Institute, where he has presided since the Institute's foundation in 1959. The farewell ceremonials will undoubtedly be the occasion for reminiscence by him and others on a rich and eventful life which began in Berlin in 1921.

Arnold Paucker was born to assimilated parents living in Berlin's Charlottenburg. The expected pattern of education - *Gymnasium* and university - was not to be; in 1935, he was forced to leave school. It was only sixteen years later that he was able to continue where he left off, attending evening classes in Birmingham to qualify for university. In 1931, in keeping with his assimilated upbringing, Arnold joined the *DRPB*, a non-Jewish, Republican youth movement disbanded by the Nazis in the summer of 1933. So it was that when he emigrated to Palestine in 1936, two farewell parties were given for him: one by his Jewish *Werkleute* friends and the other by Gentile colleagues (in uniform!) who had joined the Hitler Youth. He recalls acceding to a request to sing the *Internationale* in Hebrew and despite forgetting some of the words, making the right-sounding noises; his audience was none the wiser!

At the age of twelve, the politicised young Arnold advised his liberal parents to vote for the Social Democrats. During the year which followed - most memorably on 30 January 1933 - he witnessed the frenzied crowds cheering the torchlit parades along Berlin's *Kurfürstendamm* celebrating the Nazi seizure of power.

Italian love affairs

Arnold was fifteen when he emigrated to Palestine with his Jewish youth group, not to a kibbutz for training - the norm - but to Ben Shemen, a school having much in common with Kurt

gain entrance to university. It was the beginning of an anglicisation process which included an expertise in tea-making! In 1953 the mature student Arnold entered the German Department at Birmingham University to read German. Ironically, it was this that resulted in Arnold's first return to Germany since leaving in 1936, namely to fulfil a compulsory requirement to spend one term in the country whose language was the subject of study.

Working with Weltsch

Having attained a First, Arnold went on to Nottingham University to undertake a research degree choosing, for his doctoral thesis, a comparative study of the transfer of German *Volksbücher* to the Yiddish of the German ghettos. He sees this as the point at which he understood the importance of a broader study of Jewish history. He obtained his doctorate in 1959 and, in the same year, became the first Director of the Leo Baeck Institute, at that time located in north London and relocated the same year to its present home above the Wiener Library. He worked with the Chairman of the Leo Baeck Institute, Robert Weltsch, revered former editor of the Zionist *Jüdische Rundschau*, who "taught me my trade as editor and initiated me into recent German-Jewish history." From 1970, he took over the editorship of the Institute's *Year Book*, the flagship publication which has gained the Institute enormous academic respect. Throughout his tenure, Arnold Paucker has lectured and written extensively and has held visiting professorships in Germany, most recently at Potsdam University which awarded him an honorary doctorate in philosophy in 1996.

His retirement from the Institute will not mean severing the ties. He will spend the next few months handing over to the new Director and will continue to serve on advisory committees. With a bit more time to spare, he can now devote more time to collecting and cataloguing his large collection of

INSIDE the AJR



AJR members enjoying the Seder at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

Manchester

A group from north and south Manchester paid a visit to Beth Shalom, the Holocaust Education Centre founded by the Smith family, in Nottinghamshire. A loving greeting and the wonderful acceptance and special care extended to the victims of the Shoah and to us justifies the name 'Beth Shalom' - House of Peace - which is just what it is. Marina Smith and her two sons Drs Stephen and James have dedicated their former farmhouse to keeping the Holocaust alive and informing their visitors of the events of 60 years ago. Stephen Smith gave a spellbinding talk and then invited questions which came thick and fast. The museum portrayal of historic facts illustrated by poignant pictures - especially those of children - brought home the terrible events. The weather allowed us to wander in the garden and see the memorial plaques. The visit was extended by an additional half hour as no-one seemed to want to leave at the appointed time.

Eva E Gillatt and Lisa Wolfe

Pinner

Jack Davidoff (violin) and Jules Rubin (piano) provided an afternoon of sparkling entertainment. They played a mixture of classical and light music with verve and style, interspersed with snappy Jewish jokes. Whilst no-one was prepared to dance the tango, everyone in the audience joined in the medley of Israeli tunes. The afternoon was rounded off by the usual chat and, on this occasion, fresh fruit.

Paul Samet

Next meeting - 7 June: Michael Heppner: 'A Scroll with a Mission.'

Brighton

South London AJR's Walter Woyda paid a welcome return visit, presenting a light-hearted musical quiz with many well-remembered and nostalgic tunes and voices. Musical, operas and films were all included and voices ranged from Tauber to Sinatra and - of course - the Three Tenors. A good time was had by all.

F Goldberg

Next meeting -18 June: Visit by SLAJR, including lunch.

South London



Members of South London AJR at the AJR Day Centre

For some, the visit to the AJR Day Centre was the first and was much easier than envisaged. Sitting in the bright and warm conservatory over a welcoming cup of coffee, all questions about the centre were ably answered by Rene. There followed an excellent lunch, a game of Bingo and musical entertainment in which some of the audience joined in. Just before departing for home, tea and cake were served. The warm welcome by Rene and the staff ensured future return visits.

Herbert Wolff

West Midlands

An informal get-together at the Birmingham home of Henny Rednall was much enjoyed by the 20 members who attended. Future events were discussed including attending, as a group, the AJR's 60th anniversary tea at the Grosvenor House Hotel in September.

Henny Rednall

Next meeting - 24 June: 3rd Annual garden party.

KINDERTRANSPORT NEWS David Jedwab

At a recent Kinderlunch, Peter Masters, author (and Kind) of *Striking Back - the story of a Jewish Commando*, spoke about his childhood in Vienna, the great influence of his father on him, and about their escape from Austria and subsequent life in England.

Disappointingly, he spoke little about his life as a commando except to tell how he joined the Pioneer Corps, graduated to 'special duties of a hazardous nature' and changed his name. He also mentioned some of the battles he was involved in. His talk was witty, informative and kept his audience attentive and amused.

Bertha - what a trooper! For two weeks in March in 13 different locations in Germany, three talks a day to hundreds, not to say thousands, of pupils, some journeys of four and a half hours duration by car - who would want such an itinerary? A German 'impresario' had mobilized several 'Warner type' cinemas and bussed in all the pupils from surrounding schools to view the film *Into the Arms of Strangers* and then have a Question and Answer session. *Kol hakavod*, Bertha - you put us 'youngsters' to shame.

Dates for your diary:

Kinderlunches at the Day Centre (12.00 for 12.30)

11 June: Harry Heber -

JRC/CBF/WJR - origins of the Kindertransport.

2 July: Michael Newman - Holocaust Compensation Claims.

To participate please register your name (on a first come, first served basis) with the AJR Day Centre, 15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6. Tel: 020 7328 0208

An invitation to join in
celebrating

AJR'S 60th ANNIVERSARY

AJR's members, family and friends are invited to celebrate the Association's 60th Anniversary at an Anniversary Tea and Cabaret at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London W1 on Sunday afternoon 9 September 2001.

To mark this very special year in AJR's history, it has been decided to depart from the well-supported traditional series of concerts where the opportunity to meet one another was restricted to the concert interval. This year, by providing a full sit-down tea and entertainment, there will be maximum opportunity to greet old friends and share each other's company.

A particularly warm invitation is extended to the children of members to join their parents in celebrating an anniversary which has the greatest significance for both their cultural inheritance and British upbringing. (Tables for 'second generation' members will be made up according to demand).

The AJR looks forward to greeting members' close friends and our many volunteers. AJR groups throughout the country are invited to organise transport and to spend the afternoon together. It is hoped that associated organisations will wish to join the celebration.

Highlight of the afternoon will be one of the country's leading cabaret duos, 'Kit and the Widow' whose stylish musical humour has launched them into West End theatre, television, national and world tours.

Tickets at £18 each - which includes a full tea and cabaret entertainment - may be reserved with the AJR's Head Office. Members are invited to participate either singly, as couples, as groups, or as AJR committees - tables of 8-10 can be arranged - to ensure that everyone will be sitting with their own friends. Booking forms are available from Head Office, or telephone the Secretary, AJR 60th Anniversary Celebration Tea, 020 7431 6161 to reserve a place.

FOURTH GREAT SEASON! AJR-KT LUNCHEON CLUB

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Afternoon tea will be served at the Hotel
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arriving back in London approx 7.30pm

Cost: £24.50 per person

To book please call Joan Altman or
Carol Rossen on 020 7431 6161
Please book early to avoid disappointment

AJR GROUP CONTACTS

South London

Ken Ambrose 020 8852 0262

Pinner: (HA Postal District)

Vera Gellman 020 8866 4833

Surrey: Edmée Barta 01372 727 412

Brighton & Hove (Sussex Region)

Fausta Shelton 01273 688 226

Wessex: (Bournemouth)

Mark Goldfinger 01202 552 434

East Midlands: (Nottingham)

Bob Norton 01159 212 494

West Midlands: (Birmingham)

Henry Rednall 0121 373 5603

North: (Manchester)

Werner Lachs 0161 773 4091

Leeds HSFA: Trude Silman 0113 225 1628

AJR 'Drop in' Advice Centre at the

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

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

Tuesday 5 June
Wednesday 13 June
Thursday 21 June
Tuesday 26 June
Wednesday 4 July

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

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

Monday - Thursday 9.30am-3.30pm, Sunday 2pm - 5.30pm

JUNE		Afternoon entertainment:
Sun	3	DAY CENTRE OPEN NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	4	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue	5	The Geoffrey Whitworth Duo
Wed	6	Nikki van der Zyl, accompanied by Sheila Games
Thur	7	Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton with piano accompaniment
Sun	10	DAY CENTRE OPEN NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	11	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue	12	Robin Richards, violin, Peter Irvine, baritone, accompanied by Gloria Moss, piano
Wed	13	Jack & Daphne
Thur	14	Bridgete Hurst, violin, Myrtle Bruce-Mitford, cello, accompanied by Timothy Barratt, piano
Sun	17	DAY CENTRE CLOSED AGM
Mon	18	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue	19	Amanda Palmer at the piano
Wed	20	LUNCHEON CLUB
Thur	21	Ann Kenton-Barker & Basil Taylor accompanied by Margaret Gibbs, piano
Sun	24	DAY CENTRE OPEN NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon	25	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Tue	26	Amanda Palmer at the piano
Wed	27	Maria St. Clare
Thur	28	Opera pops, accompanied by Margaret Gibbs, piano

Announcements

Golden Wedding

Marion and Fred Durst are celebrating their golden wedding, married 28.6.1951 at Finchley Synagogue, Kinloss Gardens.

Deaths

James. Dr Herbert James, Community Physician, born in Vienna 1926. Died on 7 March at Guy's Hospital. Sadly missed by all.

Koster. Alfred (Adda) formerly Gleiwitz, Oberschlesien, aged 91, passed away suddenly 26 April 2001. My dearest husband, my best friend, who looked after me for 64 years. Deeply mourned by me, also his family and friends. Rest in peace! Yours Klari.

Tombstone Consecration

Levy. The memorial stone for Lily Levy will be consecrated at Hoop Lane on Sunday 3 June at 3pm.

Classified

Miscellaneous Services

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Societies

Kaffee Klatsch Klub, established 1986. Monthly entertainment for Jewish Europeans, 60 plus. For further details telephone 020 8554 0443.

Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners and Ex-Breslauers. Please contact Peter Sinclair 020 8882 1638 for information.

Day Centre

Chiropodist. Trevor Goldman at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. Wednesday 6 June between 10.11.30am.

Shirley Lever at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. New clothes for sale, dresses, underwear, cardigans, etc. Wednesday 13 June 9.45-11.45am.

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Michael Newman at 1 Hampstead Gate,
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Science Notebook Prof Michael Spiro

Earthquakes (contd.)

Earthquakes have revealed much about the interior of the Earth. By analysing the primary P and secondary S waves generated by earthquakes, the British geologist Richard Oldham concluded in 1906 that the Earth possessed a large central core (of iron alloy). In 1913 the German-Jewish geologist Beno Gutenberg deduced that this core was liquid: its interface with the solid mantle above it is now called the Gutenberg discontinuity. It lies 2900 kms below the Earth's surface and 3500 kms above the centre of the Earth. In 1936 Inge Lehmann in Denmark showed that this molten core contains inside it a smaller solid core of 1200 km radius.

Gutenberg wisely left Germany in 1930 and joined Charles Richter at the California Institute of Technology. Together, they showed that every increase of one unit on the Richter earthquake scale corresponds to the release of 30 times more energy. This energy is released when the rigid tectonic

plates, which cover the Earth's surface, move against each other, or move past or slide past each other (as in the San Andreas fault in California). The resulting earthquakes (and volcanic eruptions) have thus mapped out for us the boundaries of these tectonic plates.

Earthquakes along the western edge of the American continent, Japan and Indonesia are caused by the large Pacific Ocean plate moving against the North American and Eurasian plates (by dipping below them). Most of the world's earthquake energy is released in this circum-Pacific belt. Another earthquake belt passes through southern countries of Europe and on through the Middle East. A belt underneath the Atlantic, which shows up in Iceland, arises from plates moving apart. Tectonic plates move at rates which vary from a few millimetres a year to several centimetres, and we still have much to learn about the processes involved.

Music and pictures from Berlin

Thea Skyte

The small waiting room at Bolton Abbey railway station played host to an unusual musical event, a private performance by members of Opera North and other professional musicians, of a new chamber opera. *The Landau Papers* was composed by Sam Paechter with a libretto by Rachel Feldberg, both members of the Leeds Holocaust Survivors Friendship Association and children of German-Jewish refugees.

The opera, based on unpublished memoirs and oral reminiscences of life under the Nazis in 1930s Berlin, tells of the friendship of Hannah, a brilliant Jewish musicologist and Dodie, a Christian.

Guests, including former refugees depicted in the photographic exhibition staged in one of the carriages, travelled by steam train from Embsay to Bolton Abbey. "Between two worlds" is the work of Leeds photographer Lizzie Coombes and shows the everyday life, and history, of some West Yorkshire Holocaust survivors.

Two further performances of the opera - including its world premiere - will be given in Leeds, in conjunction with the exhibition, on 10 and 11 June.

Search Notices

Gottfried who lived with Douglas and Katherine West, Wiltshire, in 1939. Please contact Edward West 07944 171426.

Mädchengymnasium Linz, Körnerstr.9. Pupils who attended the school until 1938 including Elisabeth Basch, Charlotte Brück, Hanna Eibuschütz, Klara Eisenberg, Martha & Sylvia, Lizzi Hirschfeld, Marianne Lenk, Gertrude Lorenz, Gertrude Maus, Margit Nalos, Marianne & Dorothea Pauli, Grete Pollak, Liselotte Redlich, Edith Schiller, Margarethe Taussig, Edith Töpfer and Ottilie and others please contact teacher researching the school's Jewish traces. Verena Wagner, Hauptstr.1, 4210 Gallneukirchen, Austria.

Dr med. Jacob Leon Rummelsburg. Born 1887, lived in Berlin early 1930s. Emigrated in December 1935 where he

died 1953. Any information please contact 020 8908 0582.

Paula Scherbak Ullman from Brno (Brünn), lived at 40 Grove House, Highgate, London from 1939 with her daughter Anny Bloch. Descendants please contact Nina Hofman (family friend), Via della Scuole 1, 6900 Lugano, Switzerland. Tel/fax: 0041 91970 2180.

Harry (Horst) Lorge. Born Frankfurt/Main 16 March 1924. Came to England in 1939/1940 and studied and worked in Leeds in 1942. Lived in the Harehills or Roundhay area until moving to London. Last visited the Douse family, 32 Montague Place, Leeds 8 in 1949. June Clements (née Douse) would like to hear from him or any relation. 4 Yeomanry Close, Warwick CV34 4UT.

Roy Owen (Rudi Östereicher). Born ca. 1926. Came with his sister from Austria to

England with the Kindertransport in 1939. Served as a sergeant in the British Army during WWII, working as an interpreter in Halle. Later lived in Paddington. May have moved to Israel. Please contact Norbert Piel whose mother Ilse would like to meet him again. Buchfinkenweg 48, 04159 Leipzig, Germany. Tel: 0049 341 4621812. Email: norbert.piel@gmx.de

Plauen in Germany. If you lived in Plauen before 1945, please contact me. I am writing a book and urgently need information. R Fiennes Tel: 01643 831350 Fax: 01643 831408.

Volary to Prachatice. I urgently need information from anybody connected with the Death March on 4/5 May 1945 in this region. Please call 01643 831350 or fax 01643 831408.

Days of Remembrance

Judy Lash Balint

Here in Israel, the days surrounding Yom Hashoah and Yom Haatzmaut heighten awareness of our Jewish destiny. Holocaust-related stories, testimonies and even Shoah political intrigue receive priority media coverage. It doesn't escape many here that "we are still fighting for our lives," as Ephraim Sneh notes at Yad Vashem, over the sounds of gunfire and shelling at Rachel's Tomb and Gilo.

For many, it's a time to retrace the earlier stages in the Arab-Israeli conflict, both to remember those who gave their lives for the Jewish state, and to understand and appreciate the land itself. I went on a trip, retracing the 1947-48 battles to keep open the road to Jerusalem. As we sat on the lower hills of the Castel, a key outpost west of Jerusalem, our guide described the conditions at the time. "Jewish civilians were under constant attack on the roads - 1,200 people were killed in four months." 100,000 Jerusalemites lived under siege and relied on armed convoys bringing supplies, medicine and water to the city.

From the top of the Castel there's a panoramic view of the surrounding area, but most important is the vantage point over the main Tel Aviv - Jerusalem highway. Whoever controls the Castel controls access to Jerusalem. It took several Palmach and Haganah brigades to capture the hill in April 1948. They killed renowned Arab commander Abd Elkader El Husseini (father of Palestine Authority Minister of Jerusalem Affairs, Faisal Husseini) and opened the road to the Holy City as Arab soldiers flocked to Jerusalem for Husseini's funeral. Around the back of the hill are memorial plaques bearing the names of the fallen Palmach soldiers.

The Harel Outlook, a serene, forested spot on the Beit Shemesh - Ramla road offers views over the Burma Road - Israel's original by-pass. (Since the Oslo Accords, many roads have been constructed through Judea and Samaria to bypass hostile Arab villages. Today they are among the most dangerous

roads in Israel, users being subjected to drive-by shooting and stoning.) Building the Burma Road was a feat of endurance and ingenuity. Gangs of young Jews brought in from Jerusalem surreptitiously hacked the lifeline out of the steep terrain. The three-mile gap between two sections of the road proved impossible to bridge, so hundreds of men made the nocturnal traverse on foot, hauling heavy sacks of flour to Jerusalem. Today, on the hills of the Burma Road, oversized silhouette figures recall their fortitude.

We move on to the fields below Latrun, graveyard of hundreds of Jewish soldiers. Many who fell at Latrun, a Mandate police fort, pumping station and key point on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway, were Holocaust survivors, recently released from the Cyprus detention camps. They were untrained, spoke little Hebrew and had no chance against the Arab Legion's superior firepower. One of the young division commanders who tried to rescue the untrained survivors was Ariel Sharon. A short distance from Latrun is the military cemetery at kibbutz Kiryat Anavim. Here lie the boys of the Harel brigade in the place that served as their home base during the War of Independence. The orderly rows of Jerusalem stone bear the names and ages of the fallen: fifteen, sixteen and seventeen year olds who lied about their age to enlist to fight for a Jewish state. Many of the boys were new immigrants from the devastated Jewish communities of Eastern Europe.

These places and the days of Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut give us hope in difficult times. Things have been worse, and we have much to celebrate. We have paid a heavy price for self-determination, independence and continuity - but this is Jewish destiny, and we are privileged to be part of the first generation in thousands of years to witness the emergence of a flourishing, albeit troubled, Jewish state.

Newsround

Unpunished war criminal

The arrest of Friedrich Engel, head of the SS in Genoa and responsible for the murder of over 200 Italian prisoners of war, has been requested by Italy. He has lived in Germany since 1999, when an Italian court handed down a life sentence in absentia.

Gestapo archive uncovered

A research student has uncovered over fifty large boxes containing the complete archive of the Gestapo's Central Office in the cellars of Vienna's city archives, reports *The Jewish Chronicle*.

Bush reaches out

President Bush visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington on Holocaust Memorial Day, lighting a candle in memory of those murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The visit was seen as a gesture of friendship with Israel.

Belated war crimes trial

Anton Malloth, a Theresienstadt guard, is on trial in a prison outside Munich 52 years after being sentenced to death in absentia by a Czech court. After the sentence he fled to Italy where he lived until expelled in 1988.

Conserving the past

The 350 Jewish cemeteries in Bohemia and Moravia will be collected on a database to be accessible on the Internet, reports *The Jewish Chronicle*. The mainly volunteer team expects to spend up to fifteen years finding and recording cemeteries in varying states of repair.

Auschwitz disco closed

The Polish authorities have closed down a disco operating close to Auschwitz concentration camp after protests by, among others, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre and a German youth organisation.

First for compensation

The first Briton has been awarded compensation from the Austrian General Settlement Fund. Herbert Anderson will receive a payment towards the value of jewellery stolen from his mother when Nazi officers raided her home.

MK