

AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

The mukhtar of London

With the fall of Kabul and then Kandahar, the current War on Terror entered a new phase. At that point, a debate started about how HM Government should treat those UK Muslims who, having gone to Afghanistan to fight in the ranks of al-Qa'eda, were now in prison camps or in Guantanamo Bay. None has yet been returned to Britain, thus postponing the day when the UK authorities will have to take the bull by the horns and institute proceedings for treason - or some other criminal offence - against them.

Given the fact that Muslims are a sizeable minority in Britain and that Islamist teaching apparently places allegiance to the faith ahead of allegiance to one's country of residence, the legal authorities will have to tread warily in their deliberations, ever mindful of various conflicting pressures. (The notion that allegiance to Islam overrides all other considerations, including loyalty to a country which has granted a Muslim immigrant citizenship - or in which he was born - is relevant in this context. After September 11 radical UK-based *imams* told their congregations that it was their religious duty to support Osama bin Laden's *jihad* against the West. Their inflammatory sermons were not echoed in all other British mosques - but they were not unequivocally condemned either.)

Jumping the gun, one influential UK politician has already offered his unsolicited advice on this matter to the judicial Establishment. It would be quite wrong, according to London Mayor Ken Livingstone, to stigmatise US Muslim volunteers captured in Afghanistan as traitors to this country. Instead, they should be seen as compassionate idealists who, provoked beyond endurance by nightly TV images of Palestinian suffering at the hands of the Israelis, had rushed off to Afghanistan to fight.



Ken Livingstone

In putting out this statement, the Mayor has both infringed the conventions governing the conduct of municipal affairs, and sententiously distorted the truth. It is not part of a municipal official's function to pronounce on issues of war, allegiance and treasonable conduct. More crucially, he has reduced the multi-dimensional frustrations experienced by hate-fuelled adherents of an ossified religion in a fast-changing secularised world to the single cause of the disadvantaged Palestinians.

Mayor Livingstone thus joins the French ambassador to Britain in identifying Israel as the culprit in the ongoing dangerous destabilisation of the Middle East. And just as Monsieur Daniel Bernard was utterly wrong in his flesh-creeping hypothesis of Israel triggering a Third World War, so Ken Livingstone is woefully deluded in presenting brainwashed UK Islamists as 'compassionate idealists'.

Could anyone conceivably apply that epithet to the 'shoe bomber' itching to blow a plane-load of travellers (as well as himself) sky-high for the greater glory of Allah?

Or to Omar Sheikh, who has allegedly masterminded the kidnapping and the butchery - on camera - of the US journalist Daniel Pearl? This stomach-turning act of barbarism, when viewed in conjunction

with the Taliban practice of public executions on the blood-soaked and bone-strewn Kabul football ground, puts the 'torture' accusations the British media levelled at US guards in Guantanamo Bay into some sort of perspective.

These are some of the UK-bred combatants the War on Terror is directed against. Daniel Pearl's dying words 'I am a Jew, my mother is a Jew' may have sounded like a guilty plea to his tormentors, but they have a wider symbolism. They signify that, no matter what Ken Livingstone may assert, the enemy in the Islamic warriors' gun sights are not simply Israelis, but Jews *per se*. It is a lesson those of our co-religionists who feel detached from Israel - which they dub an 'apartheid state' - ignore at their peril.

The Islamists' poisonous Judeophobia goes hand in hand with virulent hatred of the Great Satan, America. To be born a US Jew - as Pearl was - makes one automatically deserving of death. One wonders if the nightmare scenario of being kidnapped - like him or Leon Klinghoffer - by fundamentalist Muslims ever crosses the minds of Naum Chomsky or Susan Sontag as they travel the world dispensing their liberal insights - such as that America was founded on genocide - to impressionable audiences.

A modest counter-proposal

Richard Grunberger

Prime Minister Sharon's proposed buffer zones around population centres may reduce infiltration by suicide bombers somewhat, but will by no means guarantee the safety of the civilian population. The only way that could be ensured would be by establishing a sort of Iron Curtain that hermetically seals off Palestinian territory from Israel.

Creating a continuous physical barrier to infiltration would inevitably entail abandoning the settlements located on the 'wrong' side of a *de facto* border. The settlements themselves are manifestations of a biblically inspired dream of a Greater Israel. Since that dream has increasingly turned into a nightmare, the majority of moderate Israelis must steel themselves for a centre-left versus right conflict. Such a conflict would be bitter - but, once concluded, it would unshackle the country from a project that has both turned into a diplomatic embarrassment and an unsustainable drain on human resources.

I realise that this proposal excludes a solution to the problem of Jerusalem, and of the one million Arabs within Israel proper (who actually have shown little inclination towards militancy). Another major headache would be the exact location of the new border. Israel cannot be expected to pull back totally to its pre-1967 boundary in locations where to do so would place it at a strategic disadvantage. Nor is it equitable to expect her to give up all the gains resulting from a war initiated by her enemies. If aggressor states lose nothing as a result of defeat, they are not deterred from recidivism.

After all, the Second World War ended with Danzig, Breslau and Königsberg being transformed into Gdansk, Wrocław and Kaliningrad. (Nor would any German government think of asking the Poles, Czechs or Russians to resettle the 12 million German expellees who moved westwards in 1944/45.)

Max Perutz dies at 88

Max Perutz, one of the giants of twentieth-century science, has died. Born into Vienna's *haute juiverie* involved in the textile trade (cf. Hofmannsthal, Hermann Broch and Stefan Zweig), he opted for scientific study. In 1936 he arrived in Cambridge to research haemoglobin. During wartime internment in Canada, he lectured at a 'camp university' alongside Hermann Bondi and Klaus Fuchs. Released, he worked on a hush-hush project for a floating airbase in mid-Atlantic, which proved impracticable.

Postwar, he continued his protracted research into the molecular structure of haemoglobin, ultimately gaining the Nobel Prize in 1962. In the process, he played a key

role in setting up the Cambridge-based Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology, a huge nursery of scientific talent.

In refugee circles, Perutz is remembered for claiming that his brutal uprooting was the spur to achievement: 'Cambridge made me.' Just as controversial, though less well-known, was his comment on the Central European diaspora: 'One only reads about Jews who turned their emigration into an opportunity, but there were also many who never ceased to look backwards. They only moved in circles of their old acquaintances from Vienna or Prague, and remained foreigners all their lives.'

RG

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES
will be held on **SUNDAY 16 June 2002 3 pm** at 15 Cleve Road, London NW6

Guest speaker: Professor Mark Roseman
**'The Wannsee Conference 60 Years On:
Is There Anything New to Say?'**

Agenda: -

Annual Report 2001, Hon. Treasurer's Report,
Discussion, Election of Committee of Management*

**No person other than a committee member retiring by rotation shall be elected or re-elected a committee member at any general meeting unless:-*

(a) he or she is recommended by the Committee of Management, or

(b) not less than twenty one clear days before the date appointed for the meeting, notice executed by ten members qualified to vote at the meeting has been given to the Association of the intention to propose that person for election or re-election together with notice executed by that person of his or her willingness to be elected or re-elected.

Registry of Holocaust Survivors

The Survivors Registry of the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington DC maintains the single most comprehensive listing of Holocaust survivors in the world. The Registry has existed for over a decade and currently contains approximately 172,000 names of Jewish survivors and their descendants. The Registry is an invaluable resource for survivors still trying to locate family and friends, as well as for historians and genealogists.

The Registry defines as a survivor anyone displaced, persecuted and/or discriminated against by the racial, political or ethnic policies of the Nazis or their allies from 1933 to 1945 and who survived the end of World War II. A Holocaust survivor can be

registered even if he or she is no longer living today.

It is important to make certain that each survivor's unique experience is recognized and preserved for future generations. Unfortunately, the window of opportunity for survivors to register is rapidly narrowing. If you are a member of a Jewish organisation, or if you know of individual survivors who may not be registered, please help to spread the word. Registry forms can be downloaded from the web page at <http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry> or please write to Laura M. Green, Collections Manager, Survivors Registry, US Holocaust Museum, Washington DC, USA.

AJR Journal

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Incarnation of the nation

The French presidential elections are due later this year, which also happens to be the bicentenary of the birth of Victor Hugo. This coincidence has given the contenders for France's highest office of state - the right-of-centre Chirac, the left-leaning Jospin, and the unclassifiable Chevènement - an opportunity to drape themselves in the mantle of the great writer.

Since Hugo, in the course of his long life, boxed the entire political compass - a royalist when young, he ended his days as a socialist - this should not be too difficult. The French are proud of their writers (*pace* the 30,000 Parisians who followed Jean-Paul Sartre's funeral cortege) and eschew Anglo-Saxon attitudes to sexual peccadilloes. Hugo has therefore been accorded a stratospherically elevated position in the national pantheon despite his inveterate womanising.

Notwithstanding the indulgence France shows to male sexual predators, such as the unforgotten 'people's king' Henri Quatre, the country also has two outstanding female national symbols: the historical Jeanne d'Arc and the fictitious Marianne. St Joan, immortalised by Schiller and Shaw, has lately suffered the indignity of being appropriated as the grubby *Front National* party mascot. As for Marianne, embodiment of the sprit of 1789, she has had her image emblazoned on stamps, coins and posters whenever the country had lucid intervals between surrendering to spurious 'men of destiny' such as Napoleon III or Marshal Petain.

Britain and America have created similarly fictitious symbols to serve as personifications of the nation. The USA have chosen as their allegorical figure the sleekly adroit Uncle Sam. In addition, they have a most impressively

eye-catching gallery of Four Fathers - as well as forefathers - of the nation in the gigantic sculpted heads of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt hewn out of the rock at Mount Rushmore, South Dakota. Britain has opted for John Bull, the bluff, corpulent farmer with feet firmly planted on the ground. (Currently, left-wing Brits are agitating to have John Bull replaced by the similar-sounding John Ball, an unfrocked priest who incited the Peasants' Revolt of 1381.)

The Germans, too, have a fictitious national figure. This is *der deutsche Michel*, a dozy trusting fellow easily cheated by his craftier neighbours. If this imaginary, peaceable character catered to a national propensity for wallowing in self-pity, real-life aggressors like Frederick the Great and Kaiser Wilhelm II generated countervailing emotions of pride, not to say *hubris*.

Hitler had his path to power smoothed by the spate of *Fredericus* biopics UFA turned out of their own volition during the Weimar years. These films purveyed the subliminal message that the Führer was the reincarnation of Prussia's national hero.

In reality, Hitler shared only one of Frederick the Great's characteristics: a will to power untrammelled by any consideration of humanity. In other respects, though, the two most famous embodiments of the 'German spirit' diverged totally. Had Frederick lived in the Third Reich, he would not only have been shrilly denounced as unpatriotic for preferring to speak French rather than German - he would have ended up in a concentration camp wearing the pink triangle of homosexuals.

Richard Grunberger

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Fascism in Hampstead, 1945-1949

Catherine Shepherd

The HONOURABLE PETITION of the undersigned inhabitants of the RESIDENTIAL Borough of Hampstead asketh for HAMPSTEAD HOMES for HAMPSTEAD PEOPLE and prayeth for the prompt repatriation of the thousands of Austrian and German refugees who have taken up residence here and have turned so many of these houses and flats into factories and workshops, which same houses and flats are now sorely needed for our returning daughters and sons and for our evacuated daughters and their children.

The starting point for this article was the discovery of the existence of the above petition, which was signed by over 2,000 Hampstead residents in October 1945 and handed to the MP for Hampstead at the House of Commons. The Hampstead Petition Movement, which urged the expulsion of German Jewish refugees, together with the anti-petition response at the end of 1945, set the scene for a series of both proto-fascist and full-blown fascist meetings that were held in Hampstead in the remaining years of the decade. The 'story' of fascism in Hampstead is recreated in the weekly pages of the *Hampstead and Highgate Express* (hereafter *Ham and High*), together with the many local issues arising from postwar reconstruction, and constitutes an integral part of the social and cultural history of the area.

Refugees in Hampstead population in 1945

The population of Hampstead during the war dropped from over 90,000 to 58,000 due to military service and the government's evacuation programme. It is difficult to ascertain the precise numbers of refugees in the borough in the 1940s as sources vary. According to the then home secretary, Chuter Ede, there were 9,168 refugees of German or Austrian origin in Hampstead in 1945, occupying 3,093 dwelling places, whereas, according to *Hampstead at War*, published after the war by the then Hampstead Borough Council, by 1941 'the records show that the alien population had increased to almost 24,000.' Certainly the proportion of refugees within the local population was extremely high.

Anti-refugee feeling

Local feeling about the influx of refugees was closely connected to the housing shortage in the area, the result of extensive bombing. In the months before the presentation of the Hampstead petition (see above), both 'Heathman's' column and several letters printed in the *Ham and High* reflected anti-refugee feeling in Hampstead. 'Heathman' suggested, 'at the risk of being dubbed a xenophobe', that the government should prepare lists of the refugees and the 'approximate times they will leave for their own homelands'. Then the properties vacated could be used for the returning servicemen and women. 'Optimist NW3' claimed that 'There is a decided danger of political trouble if a large number of foreigners is allowed to settle here.' Another letter expressed horror at a spate of 'anti-semitic scrawlings' on public buildings in Hampstead, including a swastika over a United Nations poster outside Swiss Cottage station. 'Hampsteadian' complained that German 'is now a common language in the Swiss Cottage and Belsize Park district... surely it is not illogical to look forward to a time when to hear German spoken here is the exception rather than the rule.'

Hampstead petition

The main headline of the *Ham and High* for 12 October 1945 read '2000 residents will send petition to Parliament', followed by 'Aliens should quit to make room for Servicemen.' The petition was organised by two women in Belsize Park, Miss Sylvia Gosse and Mrs Margaret Crabtree. It was supported by Flight Lieutenant Challen, the MP for Hampstead, and was signed by over 2,000 residents, including the mayor and several councillors. The formulation and circulation of the petition were largely the result of links with various proto-fascist groups, including the Women's Guild of Empire, the Fighting Fund for Freedom and the Face the Facts Association.

Anti-petition meeting

Within weeks the petition had sunk into disrepute, thanks to a powerful opposition lobby that organised a 'Protest against

Prejudice' meeting and the circulation of a counter-petition. The vigorous Hampstead branch of the Left Book Club was notably active in opposing the arguments contained in the petition, and, indeed, was primarily responsible for organising the anti-petition meeting. The meeting was very well attended and received extensive coverage by the local press. Some of Hampstead's best-known residents, including Julian Huxley, Peggy Ashcroft and Dr C E Joad, sent messages of support. A panel of well-known speakers, including Victor Gollancz, Eleanor Rathbone and Ernest Raymond, the Hampstead novelist, offered factual information, considered opinion and a moral position.

Letters in the press

The *Ham and High* printed extracts from a selection of letters both for and against the petition. The correspondence represents the arguments and the depth of feeling that had been engendered by the refugee issue in Hampstead. Those in support made the point that the refugees were better housed and better clad than the English and could obtain food 'no Englishwoman could afford to buy.' One ex-serviceman questioned why he should pity 'foreigners who are living in ease while English families are existing in Nissen huts.' The letters against the petition represent a more humane response to the idea of 'throwing out the refugees'. One such letter called the petition movement 'a replica of that Nazi bigotry whose logical conclusion was exposed at Belsen.'

This article has been adapted from the author's MA dissertation in Modern History at Birkbeck College, University of London. The second and final part of the article will appear in the May issue of AJR Journal.

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Identifying and recovering works of art

Anthony Streatfeild, Christie's of London

The looting of art during the period 1934-1945, particularly from Jewish people, was carried out on a massive and systematic scale (it is believed that almost a third of all privately owned art in France in 1938 was looted during the subsequent six years).

Most looted art was, at the end of the war, restored to its owners - where they could be identified. But where families had lost whole generations, or where families had emigrated leaving their possessions behind, or sold in dubious circumstances, this identification and follow-up by the authorities was inevitably less than perfect.

In large part, the detailed information kept by the Nazis was maintained within Eastern Europe, and so the fall of communism released vast quantities of records and data, which have played a major part in identifying and helping to resolve claims. Further, much of the information gathered by the Allied forces following the war in relation to the perpetrators and victims of looting, as well as the works which were the subject of the looting, was not, until recently, made public.

The efforts of a few in bringing the whole topic of compensation to the foreground - whether for gold held in Swiss banks, or for forced labour in German factories - contributed to the issue of looted art coming to the foreground. Finally, the publication in the early to mid-1990s of a number of books, including *The Lost Museum* and *The Rape of Europa*, raised public awareness of the extent of the looting, and the fact that many families which had been victims of the human tragedy of the Holocaust were also victims of a cultural tragedy - through the removal of their heritage.

At Christie's, we were honoured to be involved at the earliest stages of this restitution process. In 1996, on behalf of the Federation of Austrian Jewish Communities, Christie's held a sale of some 1,000 works of art that had lain in the abbey of Mauerbach since the end of the war. These works had belonged to Jewish families that had perished in the concentration camps and there were no



Alexander and Campaspe in the studio of Apelles by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo.

Restored to the Gentili di Giuseppe family, surviving members of which fled France in 1941. (Christie's Images Ltd)

known heirs. The Mauerbach sale realised over £9 million.

The passage of time has not made things easier. While the moral argument in favour of restitution may in many cases be compelling, the starting point must be the identification of the works themselves. Many of the records are still there and many works are still with the governments to which they were entrusted after the war when no heir could be immediately found.

It is very often people with no current involvement in the art world who are members or heirs of families which, back in the 1930s, did own works of art. Sometimes these families had great collections, such as the Rothschilds, for whom Christie's held a major sale of works of art that had been restituted from museums in Austria. But sometimes these families owned just a few pictures,

and ones which in those days - particularly if they were the then contemporary (or as the Nazis would describe it 'degenerate') art of the day - were not considered particularly valuable.

Many families, or descendants of families, that were forced to leave Europe during those dark days are now thinking back as to whether their forebears did have works of art; and if they did, are wondering what became of those works. Clearly research will play a major part in any success story. There are organisations such as the Commission for Looted Art in Europe which are there to assist in this very specific field; as indeed we are regarding for example research into the works of art themselves.

New success stories of art returned to former owners are emerging all the time, and assisting in a successful outcome is one of the pleasures of working in this field.

**The Ambassador of Austria
Dr Alexander Christiani and the
National Fund of Austria**

INFORMATION MEETING

**Ms Hannah M Lessing,
Secretary General of the
National Fund and the
General Settlement Fund of Austria**

**'Austria's Dealing with Her Past:
the Practical Contribution
of the Austrian National Fund'**

In Manchester

**21 April 2002, 2.30 pm
Crowne Plaza, The Midlands Hotel,
Peter Street**

In London

**22 April 2002, 2.30 pm
Logan Hall, 20 Bedford Way, WC1**

The Austrian Embassy advises that access can be obtained only on receipt of a reply card. For invitations and further information, please contact Maria Käfer on 020 7344 3252 before 5 April.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right
to shorten correspondence
submitted for publication

HAIL OF BRICKBATS

Sir - The point that becomes increasingly apparent from reading your columns is intellectual sclerosis. The tone is strident, hectoring and nervously self-justificatory. The arguments are couched in what might usefully be called 'Northern Ireland' terms: a relentlessly practical and brilliant search in the grab-bag of history to support conclusions long since decided upon. It looks like quasi-scholarship; it reads like prejudice. Fresh air is there none. Opposing views are, of course, given a hearing in the correspondence columns but these reveal ethical, political and intellectual differences which are deeper than anything subsequently acknowledged in your printed utterances. My impression is of a publication which is divisive within the very community, which needs, if anything, the opposite. The journal has become narrow, hard and predictable. It now rather reflects the plastic covers you send it in: regular, monochromatic, impervious to the outside and nearly impossible to open. Perhaps my mother, a refugee your organisation exists to support, in excellent health and pillar of her synagogue, puts it best: 'I'm not sure I can be bothered with it any more.' That view should trouble you. Does it?

Dr Peter Foot
Oxon

Sir - The 'Fief of Baghdad' editorial upset me no end. How can one advocate the extension of the Afghan war to Iraq, or to anywhere else? I should be honoured if you would call me a peacenik. Peace is the most important thing one should strive for. I can't help thinking that we are being prepared for another world war. Of course we want to get rid of Saddam and other dictators, but bombing innocent civilians is not the way. Unfortunately, it is the only way the USA, New Labour and their allies know. I was lucky enough to survive two world wars. I doubt that I should survive another. There are millions of refugees all over the world. A journal

like yours should not advocate creating more.

W Suschizky
London W2

Sir - I do not subscribe to the AJR to be subjected on nearly every page of the journal to Richard Grunberger's political prejudices. For a writer to insult and show contempt for people who do not agree with his point of view is the lowest form of parochial journalism. If RG wants to run a political magazine I suggest he studies Israel's brilliant *The Jerusalem Report*, which attempts to represent all sides of the debate. Failing that, he should stick to poetry - his *Mullah Omar's trauma* (February issue) is quite brilliant.

Jon Rumney
Whetstone

Sir - This is a plea for more precision in your articles. 'The fief of Baghdad' (February issue - a great title!) is an excellent analysis of the instability of some of the Arab states - except that it is wholly unjustified to put Nasser into the same category of 'megalomaniac dictators' as Assad and Saddam Hussein. The article claims that a majority of Israelis oppose a Palestinian state because of Arafat's duplicitous conduct and because they suspect that the Palestinians see acceptance of their statehood as a stepping stone towards the total destruction of Israel. It omits to state that this majority of Israelis includes an over-influential section of religious fanatics whose declared objectives create exactly the same kind of suspicion in Palestinian minds, namely that Israel aims to annihilate them and expand its borders to include Gaza and the West Bank.

Another article in the same issue, 'English-speaking (dis)union', objects to Ariel Sharon being called a 'war criminal', a charge it says is unsubstantiated. In February 1983 an Israeli government committee enquiry found Sharon personally responsible for the September 1982 Sabra and Chatila massacre in Beirut. It is obvious that Sharon's policy of brute force not only has failed to stop

Palestinian terrorism, but increased it. According to *Ha'aretz*, more Israelis have been killed under Sharon than any prime minister before him. Perhaps that majority will not remain one.

Eric Sanders
London W12

Sir - Are you seriously comparing the striking railwaymen at Waterloo to the Taliban and Hamas - not forgetting de Gaulle? Or are you simply lumping together all the ideas you dislike - antisemitism, anti-capitalism, anti-americanism - in one glorious mishmash for the edification of your readers? Perhaps you need a holiday.

Susan Foot
Exeter

Sir - I was deeply distressed about the content and expression of your front page. It is totally unbecoming to a refugee organisation. As soon as your format changed, the tone did too. I'm considering what to do to allow divergent opinions about Israel which can be loudly heard there even in the army, to be given due space.

Henry W Rothschild
Oxford

Sir - If Mr Bright (letters, March issue) considers that the Palestinian Arabs were in some way to blame for the Holocaust victims, he should address himself to the wider issue - that virtually all Jews could have been saved were it not for the deliberate policy of practically the entire Western world of refusing entry visas, with the honourable exception of Peru. The USA, France, Great Britain - not to speak of Switzerland - were all equally guilty.

As for Mr Gelle's (also March issue) opinion that no government could have done more to promote peace in the region and agree to Arafat's whims, is he referring to the deliberate policy of erecting settlements in areas where Arabs have lived for several hundred years, destroying their homes and olive groves in the process? Or perhaps the insane incursion into Lebanon in 1982 which caused the deaths of many young Israelis by the present prime minister, who conveniently looked the other way while his South Lebanese allies perpetrated the massacres at the two camps near Beirut? No, gentlemen, I am not a self-hating Jew or an apologist for the *intifada*. I am

simply a person who believes that even the Palestinian 'Untermenschen' or, in the words of the late Israeli minister for tourism, 'those vermin', deserve a life. Perhaps if you are interested in reading a balanced account of the British Mandate, I could refer you to a book entitled *One Palestine Complete* by the respected Israeli journalist and writer Tom Segev.

F Goldberg
West Sussex

EUROPEAN HERITAGE VISIT?

Sir - Such a visit (March issue) may appeal to a generation which has not had to live personally through the suffering imposed on our people by the Germans, Austrians etc. Those of us with memories will, however, find it repugnant to be among some of the perpetrators and silent witnesses to the heinous crimes committed against us. In the words of the late great chief rabbi, Lord Jacobowitz, who refused to tread on the blood-soaked soil of Germany, 'it is not up to us to forgive them'.

G Lazarus
Finchley

BOUQUETS

Sir - There is readable rubbish and unreadable rubbish. The larger part of Ken Ambrose's letter (March issue) falls into the latter category. Your article 'English-speaking (dis)union' was brilliant and told the truth, and my regret is that I have not written to you long before now to thank you very much indeed for it.

Mrs Edith Fulton
Hendon

Sir - In 15 years as a reader of your journal, I have not written a letter of either the brickbat or bouquet direction so common in your columns. Your latest issue, however, finally pushes me into a letter of appreciation. While frequently dissenting from your political views, I have always admired the vast amount of information you have gathered, reflecting a very wide range of cultures and interests. And language is not the least of these accomplishments: your translation of *Lustlummel* (lascivious lout) is perfect!

F Steiner
Deddington

Sir - Peter Zander could not be more wrong!! *AJR Journal* is a well-written, very informative publication! Israel historically belongs to the Jews! All of us who come from Europe feel that if we had had our old homeland, we - and many more - would have been saved. Congratulations to all who write in the *AJR Journal*.

Clare Parker
London N2

Sir - Peter Zander writes that the February issue gave him 'the unfortunate impression that the journal had turned into an official and obedient tool of the Israeli government, and was now being edited in Tel Aviv!' He takes 'great exception to this one-sidedness, which is the barrier to peace.' I wonder if he would say this about the article by *Sunday Times* columnist Andrew Sullivan of 23 December 2001 headed 'Spreading the greater lie about Israel'. Andrew Sullivan recounted some of the anti-Jewish calumnies and incitement emanating from Arab clerics and media, considering this to be a direct continuation of Nazi ideology. He is by no means uncritical of Israel and some Israeli policies. He then continues: 'But these valid arguments are light years away from the Jew-hating that has been fomented by Arab governments for years and tolerated by western elites for far too long.'

Here is his conclusion, quoted in full:

'Do we remember anything? Sixty years ago such hatred of Jews - unchallenged, appeased, excused, ignored - led directly to Auschwitz. Its prevalence now in the Middle East should remove any doubt about the morality of Israel's self-defence in these perilous times, and shame anyone who trafficks in it. Yes, this means that Israel's war against terrorism is the same as our war against terrorism. And, yes, it is good versus evil all over again.'

The sanctimonious humbug spouted by those who purport to be objective and to occupy the moral high ground by - one-sidedly - condemning Israel is particularly nauseating when it comes from Jews. Thank you for cutting through the humbug and telling it like it is. I believe I am not alone among your reasonably informed readers in appreciating your expressions of 'personal bias'.

Michael Hellman
London NW3

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ART NOTES

Gloria Tessler

Question: when does a seasoned art critic turn into a child? Answer: when placed in a room filled with Andy Warhol silver helium pillows. At the packed preview of the **Andy Warhol** show at **Tate Modern**, many entered into the spirit of Andy and joyfully played ball in one of the 19 galleries dedicated to the first artist of spin.

Warhol is famous for Liz, Marilyn, Elvis, Dean, Jackie and Mao Tse Tung - the first genuine conceptual artist who turned the advertising industry of the 50s into his own art form by the use of modern technology and screen printing methods. He discovered that the process of commercial art was mechanical but the feeling was emotional. At a time when the reigning art form was Abstract Impressionism, Warhol produced the great icons of Western commercialism. The ad, like his work, had to make its impact within a nanosecond.

Thus the endless Coca-Cola bottles and soup cans - not all identical by the way - show up the great American conflict between uniformity and innovation. And Warhol was ahead of his time. Our insatiable desire for replicas, cult images, uniformity is nowhere better expressed than in his morbid absorption with the way of death, through accident or licensed state murder. He almost lovingly presents the electric chair in black and white, in pastels and in glowing primary colours, and his photography expresses death as a frozen moment of eternity.

Warhol crops Monroe's face of the century down to its barest essentials, giving us the shadows as abstraction, as a metaphor for death. And so his reductive glamour photography in different colours, in which beauty is etiolated merely to light and shadow, perfectly develops his essential



Blue Shot Marilyn 1964 Andy Warhol
Courtesy: The Stephanie and Peter Brant Foundation, Greenwich, CT © The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

narrative - that we are obsessed with image and immediacy, superficial things that death can wipe out in a single stroke.

How symbolic that Warhol, a devout Catholic who sometimes spiked his work with philosophical or even religious messages, was shot, yet survived. How ironic that he died later, mysteriously, after a routine operation, that he passed away for no apparent reason, without anyone noticing.

In some ways, Warhol's opposite is the unsung **Morris Weidman**, who rejected public plaudits for quiet, artistic dedication. Shortly before he died, however, the **Ben Uri Art Gallery** accepted two of his paintings for its permanent collection. His posthumous exhibition, **Responding to the Holocaust**, at **Church Farmhouse Museum** in Greyhound Hill, Hendon, continues until 7 April. Weidman's relief panels at the Royal Institute of British Architects' building in London's Great Portland Street are a far cry from these Munsch-like faces of Auschwitz prisoners, which mouth a silent cry of dignified anguish. Their geometric faces in green, blue, amber and red are featureless, wearing the expression of defiant victimhood. They often conceal a *Magen David*, or Cross, or a swastika in reds and blacks. Some of them even suggest a Nazi expression, conveying that subtle interchange of roles between victim and persecutor.

RG's INTERFACE

Hamburg. The Kammerspiele theatre is staging Martin Sherman's Holocaust play *Rose* with Monica Bleibtreu in the title role. The actress, granddaughter of Hedwig Bleibtreu (*The Third Man*), recently played Katja Pringsheim, the half-Jewish wife of Thomas Mann, in an acclaimed TV series.

Vienna. Gert Voss, dubbed Europe's greatest actor by *The Times*, gave a public reading from the works of Jewish writers from Heinrich Heine to Paul Celan at the Radio Kulturhaus. This homage to the Jewish creative spirit will continue with performances of music by composers from Mendelssohn to the martyred Terezin inmate Viktor Ullmann.

In response to the atrocity of 11 September, the Volkstheater is putting on Lessing's *Nathan der Weise*, the plea for tolerance which was the first fruit of the German Enlightenment.

Berlin. The Heinz Galinski Stiftung has awarded a prize to the former East German dissident Wolf Biermann for his work in translating and publicising the epic *Der grosse Gesang vom ausgerotteten jüdischen Volk* by the martyred Yiddish poet Jitzchak Katzenelson.

Aufbau re-crosses Atlantic. Our somewhat older 'sister' publication, the New York-based *Aufbau* (founded 1934), has opened a second editorial office in Berlin. The paper's circulation, which reached 50,000 in the postwar decades, had dipped to 8,000 by the end of last century. On the point of succumbing, it was financially rescued by Chaja Koren, the Israeli daughter of Holocaust survivors. Today, it has 2,000 additional German subscribers, many of them non-Jews. Their interest is explained by the term *Phantomschmerz* - when a person who has had a limb amputated continues to feel pain where the limb once was.

Reincarnation without rebirth

... UND ALLE FRAGEN OFFEN

Marcel Reich-Ranicki

Wilhelm Heyne Verlag

It is a fact that some of the greatest monsters of the tortured twentieth century were imbued with the notion of themselves as the reincarnation of famous predecessors. That was surely the motivation behind Mussolini's authorship of the Napoleon play *Hundred Days*, and Stalin's commissioning of a film about Ivan the Terrible.

In literature, a similar phenomenon can be observed. Both Hauptmann and Thomas Mann tried on Goethe's shoes for size during the Weimar Republic (a state light years removed from ducal Weimar). On this side of the Channel, the late Malcolm Muggeridge rather enjoyed assuming the mantle of Jonathan Swift, while Michael Foot sees himself cast in the mould of William Hazlitt. In present-day Germany, Marcel Reich-Ranicki functions as a *Literaturpapst* rather in the manner of Alfred Kerr, the supreme arbiter of taste in Berlin's Golden Twenties.

It could be said of both Reich-Ranicki and Kerr that they have Jewish origins, a provincial background, great talent and driving ambition. Reich-Ranicki is the anchorman of the televised *Literarische Quartett*, which has become such an institution that excerpts from the programme are reprinted in the book under review.

I leafed through the 750-page paperback to gauge the role of the Holocaust in the German literary imagination (as well as the role of individual Jews in the German Republic of Letters). As regards fictional treatment of the Holocaust, recent years have seen nothing comparable to the work of the two postwar giants Günther Grass and Heinrich Böll. In non-fiction, the situation is rather better. The British-domiciled German academic WG Sebald has written an account of the

REVIEWS

lives of four refugees entitled *Die Ausgewanderten*, which exudes a spirit-crushing sadness. The Saarländer Josef Harling has written an acclaimed autobiography in which he confesses that as a Hitler Youth he gave Jew-baiting pep talks. The third non-fiction work of note is Ruth Klüger's *Weiter Leben*. The sequence of Klüger's life was Dante-esque. Purgatory - childhood in Nazi Vienna - led on first to Hell - Terezin and Auschwitz - and then to Paradise - liberation and study. Now an American academic, Ruth Klüger has herself been a panellist on the *Literarische Quartett*. Other past Jewish participants were the journalist Henryk Broder and the novelist Jurek Becker (who has since died).

In other words, the Jewish input into current German literary life is rather meagre - and for painfully obvious reasons. One generation ago, by contrast, there would have been Peter Weiss and Wolfgang Hildesheimer in West Germany, and Anna Seghers and Arnold Zweig in the DDR. (These four were, of course, all returnees to postwar Germany.) Equally dispiriting is the lack of any reference in the book to Israeli literature, which has latterly produced such outstanding representatives as Amos Oz and David Grossman. These several minuses are, however, balanced by a huge plus: of the five US authors discussed, three (Susan Sontag, Philip Roth and Paul Auster) are Jewish. In fact, the last two are so prolific that each has had three titles under discussion.

And a final consoling thought. Just as English literary pundits love invoking Dr Johnson and Oscar Wilde, so quotes from the likes of Heine, Börne, Karl Kraus and Alfred Polgar - co-religionists one and all -

are never far from the lips of the participants in the *Literarische Quartett*.

Richard Grunberger

Rescuer sans-pareil

NICHOLAS WINTON AND THE RESCUED GENERATION

Muriel Emanuel and Vera Gissing
Valentine Mitchell

To play a pivotal role in rescuing 669 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and allow the feat to remain ignored for nearly 50 years demands a rare blend of courage, compassion and modesty. But these characteristics exemplify Nicholas Winton. So little did the 29-year-old London stockbroker think of the enterprise he took on during an unexpected visit to Prague in December 1938 that he consigned all records to a scrapbook, retrieved from his attic only in 1988. Even his wife of 40 years was unaware of her husband's memorable accomplishment.

Equally unexpected for many 'Winton children' was the discovery that their benefactor, the seemingly *pukka* Englishman, would be ineligible for the award of 'Righteous Gentile' because he was of Jewish parentage. Indeed, the many twists in the Winton story contribute to its fascination.

In two sections, this book gives a picture of Winton's life, including his colourful war career in the RAF and his post-war task of organising the sale of Nazi booty. Winton is seen as a devoted husband and caring father to three children, one of whom was mentally handicapped. In retirement, he has pursued many worthy causes and only latterly enjoyed the limelight that followed the acknowledgement of his rescue venture.

The rescue mission itself and his life after it came to light are recorded in the second section of the book, as are the stories of some of the 'Winton children', a number of whom,

including co-author Vera Gissing, have published autobiographies. These chapters also bring to life several members of the dedicated team of helpers who played essential roles in the mission, including the indefatigable Doreen Warriner, her assistant Bill Barazetti and the dashing Trevor Chadwick, who succeeded in inveigling the *Kriminalrat* in Prague into approving the transports.

An intriguing subtext is the theme of multiple or confused identity. Not only was Winton, formerly Wertheim, baptised and confirmed; some of the rescued 'children' were eager to forget the past and merge into the gentile English landscape. The book itself, a composite with some unevenness in style and tone, reflects this confused identity.

Emma Klein

Hole at the heart

IRIS

With Judi Dench and Jim Broadbent

Directed by Richard Eyre

As someone who had read a quarter of Iris Murdoch's astonishing oeuvre, and knew a little about her refugee acquaintances, I was eagerly looking forward to this film. To say that I was disappointed would be an understatement.

Iris is a movie of two disparate parts. The first presents her as a sparky young woman cutting an amorous swathe through the serried ranks of Oxford's young men (plus the odd female). The second makes the audience privy to the ordeal her husband endured while caring for her after the onset of Alzheimer's.

Both halves generate a certain *frisson*. Early on, we wonder how John Bailey (beautifully acted by Jim Broadbent) put up with being cast in the role of serial cuckold; later, we admire his saintly endurance as nursemaid to his increasingly disoriented spouse, whom Judi

Dench portrays with consummate artistry.

So we see the film's heroine alternatively as a 'free spirit' and an Alzheimer's victim, but never as a writer - which, after all, made her deserving of interest. Iris Murdoch was an author who in terms of output could be described as a highbrow Dickens - whose psyche, as everyone knows, was shaped by his stint in a blacking factory and his father's spell in a debtors' prison - but we discover nothing that throws any light on her writing.

At the risk of appearing ethnocentric, let me point out another deficiency of the film: there is not a single reference to Jews. Yet the classicist Fraenkel and the philosopher Wittgenstein were among her teachers, and Franz Bermann-Steiner and Elias Canetti among her lovers. Moreover, Honor Klein dominates *A Severed Head* and the fake guru Rozanov *The Philosopher's Pupil*.

To sum up, the film suffers from two minuses: lack of any insight into the writing process, and a totally Jew-free ambience. Sad to say, in this instance two minuses don't make a plus!

RG

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Central Office For Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

Austrian General Settlement Fund

As announced in last month's column, the Austrian National Fund has begun distributing (peach-coloured) application forms for the General Settlement Fund (GSF). The forms run to 32 pages and applicants are advised to support their claims with relevant documents. To this end, claimants should write first to Dr Hobert Steiner at the Austrian National Archive requesting a search for records of assets that were declared forcibly by Jews in Austria following the Anschluss in March 1938. Letters must be no more than one page and should refer to the people who most likely owned the assets. The service is free and should take about one month. The address is: Archiv der Republik, Nottendorfergasse 2, A-1030 Vienna, Austria. The Archive can also be contacted by telephone on 0043 1 795 40 270, by fax on 0043 1 795 40 109 or by email at Hobert.Steiner@oester.gv.at.

As part of the social provisions of the GSF, the Austrian parliament has ruled that former Austrians living abroad are now entitled to the same level of social care as those still living in Austria. To apply for *Pflegegeld*, contact the Austrian Embassy at 18 Belgrave Mews West, London SW1X 8HU or by telephone on 020 7235 3731.

Insurance claims extension

Owing to the recent availability of names and details of insurance policy holders, the filing period for applications to the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims has been extended until 30 September 2002. A list of the names of insurance owners is available at www.icheic.org.

Further help

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

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CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE

PROFILE

Ronald Channing

Sigi Faith



'Playing the game'

Sigi Faith, born Siegfried Samuel Feitlowitz in Hamburg in 1928, was brought up an only child in the well-protected environment of a comfortable home, yet surprisingly he suffered few qualms when joining the Kindertransport for England in December 1938.

After experiencing a number of refugee camps, in May the following year Sigi found himself, together with 700 other refugee boys, living in a disused Victorian workhouse in Claydon, near Ipswich. Though a diet of hard-boiled eggs and fish cakes proved monotonous, he was free to roam the countryside, build a make-shift raft on the river and show his athletic prowess at organised sports. Barham House was a transit camp for boys waiting to be placed with families in all parts of the country. A list of names would appear on the dining hall notice board every day and the fate of those concerned decided.

On 3 October 1939 Sigi's name was posted. It meant gathering together his few belongings and being escorted to London with another boy, then changing trains for the market town of Oswestry on the Welsh borders. A taxi took the boys "into the middle of nowhere", Sigi recalls, stopping en route outside a row of modest farm cottages where his

companion was led inside by a farm labourer. The taxi then progressed through the town, halting at the gates of a substantial Victorian house. The house was that of the headmaster of Oswestry public school, founded in 1407.

Although he hardly spoke a word of English, and everyone knew that he was Jewish, antisemitism proved non-existent. The strict daily routine varied only on Sundays, which meant putting on your Sunday best and going to chapel - twice. It was Sigi's good fortune that sport was apparently considered more important than academic studies, but it took him five years to eradicate the memory of his early attempts at cricket when he was appointed cricket and house captain and, in 1944, head boy. Alas, when the other boarders wrote home, Sigi only wrote thank you letters to the parents of boys who had invited him to stay.

When he was 12 Sigi had a visit from a representative of the Jewish Refugee Committee who explained about preparing for his *Barmitzvah* and said that, as there were no other Jews within miles of Oswestry, he should take a correspondence course and return his work to the rabbi by post. But when he began to do the homework, it was brought to the attention of the headmaster, who decided that he must conform to the standard routine.

Sigi left school in September 1945, but lack of funds prevented him from going on to take medical studies. Keen to retain his independence, he chose to accept the sound advice proffered by the Refugee Committee in Birmingham and settled into an accountancy firm there for the next five years. With bed and board at 27/6d, but payment of a junior articled clerk at only 25/-, he needed to sell his meagre allocation of clothing coupons to make up the missing 2/6d. He remembers that most of the refugee boys were pretty hard up.

In 1948 his parents arrived in England, having managed to find shelter in Shanghai for the duration of the war following his father's release from concentration camp; he had not seen or been in contact with his parents for ten years. After qualifying as an accountant,

Sigi settled in London and later went into business with his father, exporting woollen textiles, carrying on the business alone when his father died in 1960. In 1964 he opened his first shoe shop in Wood Green, north London, and Faith Shoes has since been developed into a national brand which today has 340 branches in the UK and 25 overseas, with a staff of 2,200. Sigi still goes to his office every working day.

Though saddened by what happened to him and his family, Sigi regards himself as extremely fortunate in the way his life has turned out. In 1951 he met and married his charming wife Terry, an opportunity he nearly missed by turning up at the wrong venue! They have a son, a daughter and six grandchildren and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last year with a world cruise. Many classmates from over 60 years ago are still among his best friends. A member of AJR's Management Committee, a keen supporter of the Kindertransport and member of the KT-AJR planning committee, he, with his wife, regularly attends functions at the Day Centre. In a personal capacity he was recently elected to the council of the Wiener Library.

Sigi feels very English and not at all German. "I have adopted a different country", he reflects, "and I am certainly more at home in an English environment than any other." Yet, to this day he must wonder which direction his life would have taken if he had been the boy who stopped off at that cottage all those years ago.

Research Centre for German & Austrian Exile Studies

'Remaking lives and reshaping worlds: Life histories and ideas in German-Jewish thought and scholarship in emigration'

A lecture by

Kay Schiller

of Durham University

Friday 17 May 2002 at 6 pm

Institute of Germanic Studies
29 Russell Square
London WC1B 5DP

INSIDE the AJR

North London: a question of dual allegiance

AJR Journal Editor-in-Chief Richard Grunberger addressed an attentive gathering of some 40 people on the subject 'How the Issue of Dual Allegiance Affected Jews in the Past and Muslims Today', the topicality of which engendered a most lively discussion. In the light of the claim by today's hard-line Muslim propagandists that Islam takes primacy over an individual Muslim's nationality, Richard recalled how the so-called 'dual allegiance' issue had split British Jews at the time of the Balfour Declaration. However, he said, dual allegiance was no longer an issue in the Jewish case since, as democracies, Britain and Israel could not conceivably be on opposing sides in a military conflict.

Herbert Haberberg

Next meeting: Thursday 25 April, 10.30 am. Rabbi Colin Eimer, 'A Day in the Life of a Rabbi'

An 'eyeful' in Brighton and Hove

Members of the Brighton and Hove *Sarid* writers' group read out extracts from their works. Subjects ranged from Sicilian folklore, bedtime tales and a mystery story to a humorous account of a helicopter crew getting an unexpected 'eyeful' when hovering over a block of flats in Brighton. The meeting took place under the watchful eye of Andrew Herskovits, the leader and mentor of the writers' group, which has been in existence for around two years.

F Goldberg

Next meeting: Monday 15 April, 10.45 am. Judy Ironside will lead a discussion on 'Jewish Identity'

Surrey guided gently and steadfastly

We met at the work premises of Helga Frank and Anthony Deavin, who made everyone feel at home. As always, Myrna Glass guided us gently and steadfastly. Anthony Deavin spoke about his and Helga's approach to alternative medicine, in particular helping people to overcome their anger. He considered forgiveness of others to be a necessary step, but not everyone agreed - he had no direct professional

experience with refugees. In relation to Holocaust Memorial Day, Renee Goddard, whose father had been in concentration camps for seven years and was shot in Buchenwald, had attended the event at the University of Sussex and been deeply impressed by the two concentration camp survivors who had spoken there: 'Previously, I had not fully understood what it meant in human terms.'

Hanno Fry

Musical Strudel in Newcastle

At our Musical Strudel in celebration of the AJR's 60th birthday, Bradley Creswick, leader of the Northern Sinfonia, held a large audience spellbound with a virtuoso performance of light classical music, superbly supported by pianist David Murray. The Kol Hashirim Choir, ably led by Agi Gilbert, delighted the gathering with a wide choice of choral works, including traditional melodies, the Beatles and classic musicals. The musical proceedings began with a brief introduction by Dr Kurt Schapira, leader of the group planning committee, who briefly detailed the history of the AJR.

Walter Knoblauch



Newcastle AJR 60th anniversary celebration tea. Left to right: Gail and Walter Knoblauch, Monica Stern, Kurt and Eva Schapira

Pinner: music publisher flourishes again

The Pinner group heard a moving account by Irene Lawford-Hinrichsen of the famous Leipzig music publisher Edition Peters, who provided generous patronage to such composers as Grieg, Reger, Schoenberg and Mahler. As she records in her book, the Nazis 'arianised' the business while her grandfather Henri Hinrichsen was in charge and sent him and many of the family to their deaths. Having survived the Soviet era, the firm is flourishing again in Leipzig, as are the philanthropic institutions Henri founded, and Irene continues to play an important role in cementing relationships there.

Walter Weg

Next meeting: Thursday 11 April, 2 pm. 'Any Questions'

Liverpool: atom bomb and Holocaust compared

Over 20 members heard a fascinating talk by Professor Gerry Jason, a group member, on the history of the atom bomb, relating each period to the developing antisemitism in Europe at the time. Professor Jason also described from personal experience the antisemitic persecution he and his family, like others present, experienced in Germany in the 1930s. Norman Fyne then reviewed both the Holocaust Day commemoration at Liverpool Town Hall and the national commemoration at the Manchester Bridgewater Hall.

Norman Fyne

Edinburgh musical evening: from the sublime to the frivolous

Vicki Gruneberg, our hostess and musical organiser, started off with *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* and ended with a Schubert A minor quartet. In between, we were treated to Strauss waltzes and the voices of Richard Tauber, Josef Schmidt (who died young in a concentration camp) and Marlene Dietrich, and were amused by *Kuchen Lieder*. The programme ranged from the sublime to the frivolous and back.

Françoise Robertson

Kindertransport News David Jedwab

The Kinderlunches at the Day Centre now take place fortnightly and alternate with and without a speaker. At the latter event, the occasion is more social and gives the Kinder more time to acquaint themselves with one another and exchange life stories and experiences.

The next Kinderlunch with a speaker will be on 8 April, followed by the social Kinderlunch a fortnight later on 22 April.

At the last meeting, an appeal was made to save documents and letters which parents may have left but which, if they are in German, may not mean much if the Kinder have forgotten their mother tongue. These documents should be preserved and handed to us or direct to the Kindertransport Archive at the Wiener Library, where they will form an important section of the books, films and letters already handed in and which makes the Wiener Library the central depository of Kindertransport documentation.

'Continental Britons'

Full programme of lectures,
concerts and events

'Continental Britons - Jewish Refugees from Nazi Europe', an exhibition in celebration of the AJR's 60th anniversary, opens at London's Jewish Museum, Camden, on 8 May and will remain open to the public until 20 October.

Conceived, sponsored and created by the AJR, in co-operation with the Jewish Museum and the Wiener Library, this major new exhibition relates the remarkable story of Jewish refugees who fled Nazi persecution in German-speaking countries to arrive in Britain before the outbreak of World War II.

A programme of associated events includes:

- Defying Hitler.** by Sebastian Haffner.
Book launch, Lord Weidenfeld 9 May
- The Search for Refuge.** Dr Joanne Newman and Dr Tony Kushner 21 May
- Changing Countries.** ed Dr Anthony Grenville and Dr Marian Malet 11 June
- Refugee Composers.** Concerts at the Wigmore Hall. JMI 9 and 17 June
- Refugee Architects.** Symposium LJCC and RIBA 16 June
- Refugee Week.** Refugee Council at Jewish Museum 18/19 June
- No Place Like Home.** Day Conference by Wiener Library 23 June
- Continental Britons.** Dr Anthony Grenville lecture 27 June
- Remembering Sigmund Freud.**
A Walter Freud, Freud Museum 9 July
- Hitler's Emigrés.** BBC journalist Daniel Snowman, lecture 16 July
- Reception of Emigré Artists.**
Monica Bohm-Duchen, Ben Uri Gallery 10 September
- German Jewish Heritage Today.**
Goethe Institute and Jewish Museum 2 October
- Heritage of the Past: Blessing or Burden?** Rabbi Julia Neuberger and Anne Karpf, symposium 6 October
- The Church and Refugees.** Dr Margaret Brearley & Andrew Chandler 9 October

For further information and full programme details, please contact:

The Jewish Museum, 129-131 Albert Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7NB
Tel: 020 7284 1997 Fax: 020 7267 9008 Email: admin@mus.org.uk

'From Hitler to Hampstead'

70 Years of Refugee Settlement

April issue of *Jewish Renaissance*.

Dr Anthony Grenville's article marks the 60th anniversary of the AJR and discusses the exhibition 'Continental Britons', organised by the AJR, which opens at the Jewish Museum in London's Camden Town in May.

For details of *Jewish Renaissance*, please contact Janet Levin on 020 8896 1891.

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**KT-AJR
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AJR 'Drop in'

Advice Centre at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre
15 Cleve Road,
London NW6 3RL
between 10 am and 12 noon
on the following dates:

Wednesday 10 April
Thursday 18 April
Tuesday 23 April
Wednesday 1 May

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
Tel: 020 7328 0208

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

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Thur	4	PESACH - DAY CENTRE CLOSED
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Mon	8	KT LUNCH & Kard & Games Klub
Tue	9	Katinka Seiner and Laszlo Easton
Wed	10	Rita and Jack Davis
Thur	11	Judith Silver - Guitar and Song
Sun	14	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment
Mon	15	Kard & Games Klub
Tue	16	Jenny Kossew on accordion
Wed	17	LUNCHEON CLUB
Thur	18	Guyatherine Peiris and Bill Patrick
Sun	21	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment
Mon	22	Kard & Games Klub
Tue	23	Rosemary Wiseman - Musical Moods
Wed	24	Nikki Van Der Zyl
Thur	25	Nicola Smedley & Jan Cunningham
Sun	28	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment
Mon	29	Kard & Games Klub
Tue	30	Hounslow Community Opera

Announcements

Birthday

The Association of Jewish Refugees extend their congratulations and best wishes to AJR President Ludwig Spiro on the occasion of his 90th birthday on 1 May 2002.

Thank you

Steffi Steiner would like to thank all her friends who have written so warmly on the sad occasion of Kurt Steiner's passing away. Above all, I would like to express my thanks to my family, who have supported me so staunchly in this great hour of need. All of you have been of great comfort to me. Thank you.

Deaths

Delmont. Irene Delmont née Herz. Died unexpectedly after a surgical operation on 14.2.02 shortly before her 78th birthday. The many tributes we have received, and for which we are truly grateful, show us how widely and how much she will be missed. As one of her grandchildren wrote, she was amazing, wonderful, forgiving, kind, honest, talented, full of strength, integrity and originality. We are glad she is now at peace. John Delmont with daughters Veronica, Catie and Jackie and grandchildren.

Marx. Ingrid Marx. After terrible pain and suffering without complaint, our darling died on 17 February. She will be sadly missed by Kurt, Michael, Frances, grandchildren, family and friends and all who knew her. May she rest in peace.

Steiner. Kurt Steiner. Born in Berlin 1912, died on 28 January 2002 after an illness bravely borne over the years. Deeply mourned by his wife Steffi, daughter Henny, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. An irreplaceable loss to us all and he will be greatly missed by his many friends.

Wurm. Mitzi Wurm. Born in Vienna, passed away on 19 February. Sadly missed by family and friends.

Miscellaneous Services

Manicure & Pedicure in the comfort of your own home. Telephone 020 8343 0976.

Day Centre

Chiropodist. Trevor Goldman at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. Wednesday 10 April between 10-11.30.

Shirley Lever at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. New Clothes for sale, dresses, underwear, cardigans, etc. Thursday 25 April 9.45-11.45 am.

Societies

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Obituaries

Owen Franklyn

Born in Hamburg in 1914, Owen Franklyn rarely spoke about his childhood in Germany. An elegant and private man, he demonstrated great affection for his wife Helga, who predeceased him, and his children, whose welfare and happiness remained a major concern. In later years he rekindled a relationship with a childhood lady friend and together they enjoyed a remarkably energetic lifestyle, thinking nothing of jetting off to America and a number of exotic destinations.

Until he retired at the age of 70, Owen practised as a solicitor, proud of the recognition he received on reaching 50 years' membership of the Law Society. He was a partner in a leading city firm specialising in foreign cases, with a reputation for handling them with great care and success. At one time he acted as the right-hand man of the firm's senior partner, Arthur Kaufmann, who had been a lawyer in Leipzig prior to settling in London before the war.

Many of Owen's oldest and closest friends also came from the German-Jewish community. He was one of the AJR's 'founding fathers' and played a prominent role in the governance of the AJR, not least in the establishment of the residential homes for refugees on the Bishops Avenue in north London.

Having been a fine pianist in his youth, he became known as an enthusiastic viola player, in constant demand for chamber and orchestral music, enriching his life with the many friendships he made in the process. Together with Michael Sackin and Friedgard Scrimgeor, violin, and either Jim Peers or Peter Scheuer, cello, Owen settled into two regular quartets, sessions taking place in homes in London. He admitted that the quartets meant a great deal to him, a good performance being very uplifting. Every Sunday would find him listening to chamber music recitals at the Conway Hall, and the Wigmore Hall was a place he adored above any other! A resident of Leo Baeck House, until his final illness Owen continued regularly to support Covent Garden and the Proms.

RDC

Edith Eden

Didi (Edith) Eden, née Bauer, has died aged 80. Born in Vienna, she came to England with her mother in 1938, her father following on his release from Dachau. Initially, her parents found work

as a domestic couple and Didi as a nursemaid. Having taken a dress-making course, Didi worked in a clothing factory. In 1941 she married Ernest Eden and helped him in his furrier business. They had two sons: Robin and Larry.

I met Didi as a fellow member of the Heinrich Stahl house committee. She had long served on the committee with Ernest when I joined in 1985 and she stayed on after his death, playing an increasingly important role. Her special job was organising the monthly residents' birthday parties. When Ludwig Spiro retired as chairman of the committee in 1997, she took the position on, against her inclination, because it was a job that needed doing. Didi did not just organise the team of committee members but was a hands-on worker for the home. The year leading up to the closure of the home was a particularly difficult time and her devotion to the residents was very moving.

For many years Didi cooked once or twice a week for the Daleham Gardens Day Centre of the Leo Baeck Ladies' Lodge of B'nai B'rith and would not let her ill health deter her. She was President of the Lodge when she died. There, as everywhere else, she will be greatly missed. Sadly, she did not live to see the birth of her first great-grandchild - her great wish. A 'woman of worth' indeed.

Stella Curzon

Search Notices

Brasch. Family arrived as refugees from Germany, not known which year. One son born Withow, Yorkshire, 1945. Moved back to Soviet sector of Berlin 1947 and became GDR citizens. Writing an article about their son, Thomas Brasch, dramatist and filmmaker, who recently died. Please contact Lesley Chamberlain tel/fax 020 7431 9373.

Gerda (or Grete) Kermisch and Kermisch family. Currently researching TV documentary-based drama on evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk in May-June 1940. Story in which we are interested is that of Gerda Kermisch and Kermisch family. Gerda, from Vienna, fleeing the Nazis at 19, got caught up in events in north-eastern France at that time. Would also like to hear from anyone who may have been fleeing the Nazis and got caught up in evacuation from Dunkirk. Please contact Wanda Koscia tel 0208 752 4819 email wanda.koscia@bbc.co.uk

Anton Schablin (Prague) and Bernard Jacobson (London). Anton Schablin funded boat ticket for our relative Hans Zentner from Prague to Israel in 1938, saving his life. Bernard Jacobson was UK agent for Anton Schablin's Czech import-export business. If you have any information on either man, please contact Adrian Blumenthal, 14 Kehilat Saloniki Street, Apt. 56, Tel Aviv 69513, Israel telephone 00-972-3-648 0288 facsimile 013-44-207 431 8454 email adrianb@inter-israel.co.il.

Arts and Events Diary April

Mon 1 Club 43. No lecture (Bank Holiday)

Mon 8 Paul Goldman BA, FMA, 'The Art of the Book Illustrators of the Idyllic School, 1860-1870 (with slides)'. Club 43. 7.45 pm

Wed 10 Revd Jonathan Gorsky, 'Jewish Christian Relations - Why CCJ?' Council of Christians and Jews, Hampstead branch, Belsize Square Synagogue. For information, please call Revd Jonathan Dean on 020 7435 7920

Sunday 14 April to 13 June 'Visas for Life', a major exhibition, shown in over 100 venues worldwide, on diplomats who, like Raoul Wallenberg, intervened to save Jews during the Holocaust. For information, please contact London Jewish Cultural Centre on 020 7431 0345.

Mon 15 Hans Seelig MA, 'The Music of Sir William Walton (b. 1902) (with recorded examples)'. Club 43. 7.45 pm

Mon 22 Sonja Lindon BA (playwright), *The Love Cure*: Presentation of her play about the relationship between Freud and Jung. Club 43. 7.45 pm

Wed 24 Professor Richard J. Overy (King's College London), 'The Nuremberg Trials: International Law in the Making'. Wiener Library, 6.30 pm

Mon 29 Roy Clements MA, 'WB Yates: Man and Poet'. Club 43. 7.45 pm

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Club 43 Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254360

Wiener Library 4 Devonshire Street London W1 020 7636 7247

Exploring the Kindertransport experience

Ruth Barnett

When Bertha Leverton had the idea of organising the 50th anniversary Reunion of Kindertransport (RoK) in 1989, few Kinder identified themselves as such or knew the story of how the Kindertransport came about. The first two-day reunion, attended by approximately 1,000 people, was a powerful event in which many met relatives and friends they had not seen or heard of for 50 years.

For many, this was an epiphany that triggered a journey to discover themselves and their roots. In attending the event myself, I realised how much I didn't know about my own story as a Kinder - through my defence against taking it in. I was staggered to learn that almost 10,000 of us came to England between Kristallnacht and the outbreak of war and that I knew many personally without knowing they were Kinder.

At a seminar on bereavement led by my colleague, Judith Elkan, one of these Kinder talked with her about the losses involved for the Kinder including family, friends, language and country in uprooting and exile. Judith and I decided to offer groups for former Kinder to explore their experiences. The groups were sponsored by LINK Psychotherapy Trust. Because of this and other work we had done on the Kindertransport experience, we were each asked to facilitate a group at the Reunion of Kindertransport in 1999, to which Kinder were encouraged to bring their offspring. Our workshops were designated for Children of Kindertransportees.

Judith and I found that three generations of the Kindertransport had come and begun a dialogue between the generations. Enthusiasm had been generated to continue this dialogue. We decided to offer another series of group meetings, again sponsored by LINK Psychotherapy Trust, this time for intergenerational dialogue. We have had four of these meetings so far. Some have attended all four meetings and there has been at least one new person at each, so

anyone interested is welcome even if they have not joined in before.

Those who have contributed to this project have gained validation of their experiences by having them listened to in a 'safe' and sharing environment and have found this, and hearing other's experiences, enriching. It is a place where thoughts and feelings the RoK and other events have triggered can be explored. It is urgent for some people: time is running out for breaking the silence between the first and second generation that has deprived them both of sharing their experiences through fear of damaging each other. Some second-generation members, struggling in the face of the enormity of what happened to their parents, are using this group in an attempt to put their own experience into words and have it heard by the first-generation members. The process of mourning and massive losses, that had to be 'buried in the attic' of the minds of the Kinder, is loosened in this dialogue and moved towards resolution, and this has a healing effect. Themes such as ambivalence about Jewishness and Britishness, personal identity and feelings of being different are given space in this group.

One member expressed the difficulty of 'letting go', a sort of hanging on to pain as a defence against depression. To say this shows that she was already letting go. Another felt that psychological meanings of her own experience were emerging from the dialogue. Another was curious for further dialogue to explore what had been transmitted to the second generation and how this worked, and whether the third generation was affected.

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Newsround

Israeli film prizes at Berlin festival

Two Israeli films have won prizes at the Berlin film festival. *August, A Moment Before the Eruption*, a picture of Israeli society immediately prior to the current *intifada*, won the festival's peace prize. *Mabul* (The Flood), was chosen as best short film in the children's category.

French court refuses to ban poster

A French court has refused to ban a film poster which merges a crucifix with a swastika. The poster, designed by Oliviero Toscani, the Italian photographer behind the controversial Benetton adverts, promotes the film *Amen*, which examines the Vatican's silence during the Holocaust.

Boycott of museum threatened

The American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors says it will boycott the New York Jewish Museum for the duration of a controversial exhibit on Holocaust art. The museum has said the exhibit seeks to present Nazi horrors in a thought-provoking manner.

Jean-Marie Le Pen to stand again

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the veteran leader of the far-right *Front National*, says he has obtained the 500 signatures of elected officials needed to run in the first round of presidential elections in April.

Cape Town centre offers police seminars

The Cape Town Holocaust Centre has launched a programme to provide 'sensitivity' training for members of the nation's police force. The centre plans to hold one-day seminars in which police will confront the issue of racism and xenophobia.

Probe of Holocaust deniers

A commission of historians appointed by the French minister of education is beginning its year-long deliberations on the influence of Holocaust deniers. The enquiry was prompted by a series of protests by Jewish and anti-racist organisations.

Japan Holocaust centre marks 50,000th visit

The number of visitors to the Holocaust Education Centre in Fukuyama has passed the 50,000 mark. Since the centre was opened in 1995, over half of the visitors have been children.