

AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

The contentious issue of pride

When as a teenager I asked my father if he was proud to be Jewish, he replied angrily: "Don't be so bloody ridiculous!" In retrospect, I suppose for him my question implied the notion that pride in being Jewish was a bit like being proud of being white: these were accidents of birth and any pride carried with it at least the potential for discrimination against the opposite - in this case, non-Jews.

Thus writes Charlotte Eilenberg in the introduction to the printed text of her play *The Lucky Ones* (Methuen). Reading it sets one thinking. Is pride in being Jewish commendable? Or is it to be disavowed on the grounds that it resembles White feelings of superiority over Blacks?

Any comparison between the two forms of pride is, in fact, so far-fetched as to be almost perverse. While feelings of White superiority always rested on solid foundations of global political and economic dominance, Jewish pride was, at least in part, compensation for utter powerlessness. That does not mean to say that it lacked solid foundations - but this fact has only become commonly accepted in the last few decades.

Nowadays it is taken as read that the Judeo-Christian heritage forms the fundament of Western civilisation. However, leaving to one side our over-arching achievement in giving mankind monotheism and the Ten Commandments, a useful way of investigating whether we have reasons for pride is to speculate on what the world might have looked like in our absence.

In a hypothetical Jew-free world, it is doubtful whether such universal ingredients of modern living as Hollywood movies, Broadway musicals and psychoanalysis would have come into existence. Something similar applies to the development of nuclear physics, which, admittedly, also had a negative spin-off. Even so, the hugely disproportionate number of Jewish Nobel Prize winners - especially in the sciences - must have helped transform the world into a far better place. Names that come to mind at

once are Boris Chain (penicillin), Jonas Salk (anti-polio vaccine) and Carl Djerassi (birth pill).

The benefits of the birth pill are, of course, rather debatable - but in the sphere of sexual ethics and enlightenment, Jews have also played a key role. Playwrights from Schnitzler to Tony Kushner have shone a light into dark places - but the obverse also applies, *pace* Felix Salten's porn novel *Frau Mutzbacher* and Richard Desmond's top-of-the-shelf publications.



Benjamin Disraeli

A similar ambivalence obtains in the sphere of politics. Jews have been advocates of liberal values and social equity in Germany (Rathenau), France (Blum) and Britain (Disraeli) - but they have also acted as illiberal extremists in Soviet Russia and its satellites. On the credit side, one can list human rights activist Elena Bonner as well as Boris Pasternak, Isaak Babel and other dissident writers.

The postwar United States presented a distorted mirror image of this picture. If the blacklisted Hollywood writers were largely Jewish, so were Senator McCarthy's legally trained henchmen Roy Cohn and David

Shine. At the same time, the most powerful denunciation of McCarthyism was Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible*. It is no exaggeration to say that without the latter - and his novelist fellow-Jew Josef Roth - American letters would hardly occupy the pre-eminent position they do.

Twentieth-century music is likewise unthinkable without the Jewish input provided by the likes of Mahler, Schönberg, Weil and Bernstein. (Nor, incidentally, would the Salzburg and Edinburgh Festivals have been started but for their Jewish initiators.)

The visual arts - an area closed to pre-emancipation Jews by rabbinical edict - are now awash with Jewish names from Epstein to Rothke, Chagall to Modigliani, and Freud to Auerbach.

But the last mentioned may be rather rarified pursuits. The spheres in which Jewish innovators have touched the lives of millions of people most closely are industry and commerce. Without Jews there would have been no department stores and AEG in Germany, no Macys in New York and no ICI, Marks & Spencer, Lyons, Montague Burtons and Tescos in the UK.

Not that all Jewish entrepreneurs benefited wider society. There were also quite a few big-time fraudsters - Barmat, Bosel, Castiglione, Stavisky, Meyer Lansky and Robert Maxwell - among them. However, when weighed in the balance, the bad guys pale into insignificance compared to the good ones.

Likewise, when Jews feel squeamish about associating themselves with Israel under Sharon's leadership, it might be well to remember (a) whom he is confronting, and (b) that his predecessors included Yitzhak Rabin.

So, all in all, it is hard to share the gut reaction of Charlotte Eilenberg's father that pride in being Jewish is an expression of reprehensible feelings of superiority.

The bitch is still on heat

Richard Grunberger

While Britain marks the Queen's Golden Jubilee with fanfares, Germany keeps justifiably quiet about a totally different event which also happened to take place half a century ago. The background to it is the indeterminate position on the German political spectrum which the FDP - the counterpart to Britain's Liberals - occupies. While the Liberals are undeviatingly middle-of-the-road, the FDP (as well as its Austrian equivalent, the Freedom Party) has been oscillating alarmingly between *laissez-faire* and extreme right-wing positions. As Europe knows to its cost, Jörg Haider took over the Freedom Party and pushed it in a neo-Nazi direction over ten years ago.

In Germany, a similar manoeuvre affecting the FDP unfolded in 1952. Werner Naumann, Goebbels's ex-deputy at the Propaganda Ministry, and several likeminded plotters had infiltrated the Free Democrats with the intention of turning the party into a neo-Nazi Trojan Horse. British Intelligence got wind of this and alerted UK High Commissioner Ivone Kirkpatrick, who ordered the plotters' arrest - which kept the party on an even keel. However, today's FDP is led by Jürgen Möllemann, best described as Naumann's spiritual heir. Möllemann has embarked on an extreme right-wing course, for which Martin Walser's call to the Germans to shake off the burden of Auschwitz has paved the way. He has also tapped into the prevailing anti-Israel mood created by biased news reports (see facing page).

If Ariel Sharon is Möllemann's chief target, Michel Friedmann, deputy leader of the Jewish community, follows closely behind. The latter's offence is that he criticised the FDP leader for accepting the Syrian-born, Israel-baiting former Green MP Jamal al Karsli as a party member. "I am afraid", Möllemann countered speciously, "that no one has increased the appeal of antisemitism in Germany more than Mr Sharon abroad and Mr Friedmann at home."

CONTINENTAL BRITONS

Memoir of an "out-and-out anti-Nazi"

Howard Spier

'Sebastian Haffner's *Defying Hitler* is a most brilliant and imaginative book - one of the most important books we have ever published', Lord Weidenfeld told a packed audience at the London Jewish Cultural Centre. The meeting was held in association with the AJR's Continental Britons Exhibition at the Jewish Museum in London's Camden Town.

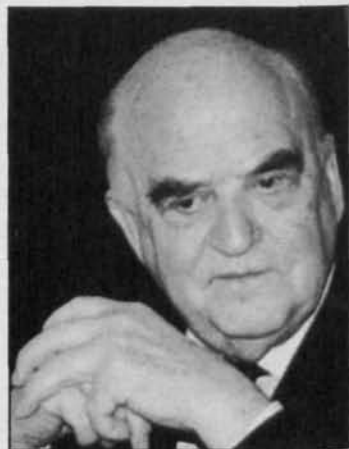
Lord Weidenfeld was introducing a discussion between Oliver Pretzel, the son of Sebastian Haffner and translator from the German of *Defying Hitler*, and Martin Chalmers, a journalist and translator of *The Klemperer Diaries*.

Sebastian Haffner (pen-name of Raimund Pretzel), a prominent journalist, political commentator and historian, was a non-Jewish German who emigrated to England in 1938. *Defying Hitler* is a memoir about the rise of Nazism in Germany and the lives of ordinary German citizens between the wars. It was written in 1939 but the author put it aside while pursuing a career as a journalist and polemicist. When he died aged 91 in 1999, his son, mathematician Oliver Pretzel, discovered the manuscript. He sent it for publication and in the summer of 2000 it became a bestseller in Germany. Pretzel has translated it into English for its British edition.

"People knew, but they looked away"

Haffner's personal history of Hitler's rise to power explores the attributes of German culture which provided fertile ground for the Nazis. According to Oliver Pretzel, his father was "an out-and-out anti-Nazi from the very start." Haffner's memoir begins in 1914, when the family

summer holiday is cut short by the outbreak of war, and ends with Hitler's assumption of power in 1933. Haffner shows how difficult it was to oppose Hitler, and just how swiftly the Nazis gained power. In Haffner's view, the Germans, unlike other European nations such as Britain and France, lacked an outlet for self-expression, thus leading to a tendency towards mass psychosis. The upheaval of post-World War I revolution, factionalism and inflation left them addicted to excitement and action: Hitler provided this, and more.



Publisher Lord Weidenfeld

In 1942, Haffner, aware of the details of the Final Solution, wrote in *The Observer* that at the end of the war the SS should be rounded up and shot. He later declared he regretted writing these words, though not the sentiment behind them. For his part, Pretzel is convinced that Daniel Goldhagen, the author of the highly controversial *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, was right: "people knew, but they looked away."

**Defying Hitler*, by Sebastian Haffner, is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson at £14.99.

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Is media bias all in the mind?

The Bishop of St Albans warns that a rising tide of antisemitism is sending a frisson of fear through the Anglo-Jewish community. At the same time, a London lawyer has compiled a 43-page report alleging BBC bias - mainly through omissions and a failure to place events in their proper context - in its coverage of the Middle East.

Are media bias and the undeniable increase in British Israelophobia interconnected?

Need we absolve the BBC and the print media from the accusation of biased reporting? I think not.

The bias manifests itself in various ways. Ariel Sharon is invariably painted in considerably darker shades of black than Yassir Arafat, although it was the PLO leader's spurning of Barak's offer that triggered the current, seemingly endless slaughter. Likewise, the media tend to suggest that Arafat is too weak to curb the Palestinian extremists. The truth of the matter is that he released some of the most notorious of them from jail at the start of the current *intifada*. Furthermore, of late the PLO-linked Al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade has perpetrated as many suicide bombings as Hamas or Islamic Jihad.

The most crucial example of media bias is probably revealed in the plague-on-both-your-houses approach to the taking of lives in the current, conflict. The action of Israeli soldiers shooting back at Arab teenagers who subject them to a hail of stones is different - not only in degree but also in kind - from detonating suicide bombs in cafés and discotheques frequented by Israeli teenagers.

Some weeks ago, Palestinian gunmen cut their way through the security fence round a West Bank settlement and entered a house, where they went from room to room methodically killing all the inhabitants,

including two small children. That is the mindset of the sadists concerning whom the British media blithely write: 'One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter.' How many viewers or readers were made aware of the fact that the dozen or so most notorious gunmen released from the besieged Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and currently enjoying EU hospitality were killers who have literally waded in blood - not of soldiers, but of innocent civilians?

The blame for such woeful confusion between freedom fighters and fanatical sadists, as well as for the apparently widespread lack of revulsion at the godfathers masterminding the suicide bombers, must be laid at the door of the media. If the American man-in-the-street has a radically different take on the Middle East conflict, this must surely be due to the way in which the same news are reported - and interpreted - on either side of the Atlantic. In this respect, the Atlantic is really immeasurably wider than the Channel.

Of course, Continental Europe's readiness to censure Israeli actions is even greater than Britain's - which, *pace* the headlines about the Jenin 'massacre', was already considerable. In the case of the Continental countries, there may also be a hugely deplorable psychological mechanism at work. Put bluntly, it goes like this: if the Jews can be retrospectively perceived as villains, it diminishes the guilt of the Germans, French etc for having treated them so inhumanly throughout the centuries (especially the mid-twentieth).

Unhappily - or should we say happily - this interpretation can only apply to Britain in the most attenuated form. So let's give three cheers for the British fleet - and only two for Fleet Street!

Richard Grunberger

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An inside view of 'Continental Britons'

Dr Bea Lewkowicz, a key member of the team which researched and created the AJR-sponsored Continental Britons exhibition currently showing at the Jewish Museum, Camden, revealed some of the painstaking processes which went into the exhibition's research and authorship, to members of the AJR Luncheon Club.

At the conceptual phase, it was considered important to tell the story of all German-speaking refugees, not just those who had achieved a degree of fame. The title 'Continental Britons' was chosen after much thought and discussion, being both provocative and fresh; its subtitle 'Jewish Refugees from Nazi Europe' avoided Hitler and concentration on Germany. It was decided to present the exhibition narrative in seven sections, beginning with the world that was left behind and ending with the refugee community's ongoing contribution to their country of adoption.

An annotated map of the shops and other services provided by and for refugees which long characterised the Finchley Road was designed as a central feature, and the reproduction of a typical Central European living room together with a well-chosen library are also revealing features. A unique series of interviews on videotape with

25 refugees which Dr Lewkowicz had directed and produced and was being shown continuously within the exhibition, was proving to be of great interest.

Accompanying the exhibition throughout its six months was a stimulating programme of lectures, concerts, symposia and other events, of which Bea Lewkowicz and her colleague Carol Seigel of the Jewish Museum had been the main creators. The exhibition catalogue, whose author, Dr Anthony Grenville, also wrote the exhibition text, grew into an authoritative history of the subject and is published by the AJR with the Jewish Museum.

No such exhibition could be considered complete without a reference to the continental café culture which the refugees brought with them, so a reconstruction of the Cosmo Restaurant, a popular place of congregation on the Finchley Road, helps to evoke memories of good fare and good company among Continental Britons.

RDC

The book Continental Britons by Anthony Grenville is available direct from the AJR head office at £7.50 (cheques payable to the AJR).

Dr Bea Lewkowicz talking about 'Continental Britons' at the AJR Luncheon Club



PHOTO: RONALD CHANNING

Continental Britons Exhibition and Arts and Events Diary - July

Sun 7 'Refugee Stories'. Drama and Storymaking workshop with David Bash. For children aged 8-14. Jewish Museum. 2 pm

Mon 8 'Gemütliches Beisammensein' with music and refreshments. Club 43. 7.45 pm

Tues 9 'Memories of Sigmund Freud by his grandson Anton Walter Freud'. Jewish Museum. 7 pm

Tues 16 Daniel Snowman, 'The Hitler Emigrés: The Cultural Impact on Britain of Refugees from Nazism'. Jewish Museum. 7 pm

Fri 26 to 8 September Ludwig and Else Meidner - An Exhibition on Two German Refugee Artists. Venue: Ben Uri Gallery. Monday-Thursday 10 am to 5.30 pm, Friday 10 am to 3 pm, Sunday 12 noon to 4 pm

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

The Jewish Museum, Camden Town, Raymond Burton House, 129-131 Albert Street, London NW1
tel 020 7284 1997

Ben Uri Gallery 108a Boundary Road, St Johns Wood, London NW8
tel 020 7604 3991

Club 43 Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254360

CONTINENTAL BRITONS JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NAZI EUROPE

AJR Members are invited to visit a new exhibition researched, written & sponsored by the Association of Jewish Refugees in celebration of the AJR's 60th anniversary at

**The Jewish Museum, Raymond Burton House
129-131 Albert Street, London NW1**
5 minutes walk from Camden Town Underground Station

Until 20 October 2002

Monday-Thursday 10 am-4 pm, Sundays 10 am-5 pm
Closed on Jewish Festivals & Public Holidays

Entry £3.50, AJR Members £2.50, Children and Students £1.50, Family Ticket £8, Museum Friends free



AJR Celebration Tea with Light Opera booking now open

This year's special AJR event is to be a Celebration Tea with Light Opera, taking place at the London Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1, on Sunday 20 October from 2.30 to 5 pm. A full tea will be served.

Highlight of the afternoon is certainly the performance of 'The Garden Party', a group of professional singers from the company of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Highly talented and accomplished soloists, each has sung roles with other major international opera companies. Their maxim that opera is enjoyable will be evident from the exuberance of their performances, a sense of fun combined with thrilling voices, providing outstanding entertainment for everyone to enjoy.

A specially chosen programme to appeal to the tastes of 'Continental Britons' will be presented by Glenys Groves, soprano, Scilla Stewart, mezzo soprano and piano, Adrian Martin, tenor, and Roy Gregory, baritone. A veritable feast of popular classical song is guaranteed.

Please use the enclosed order form and complete it in full to make quite certain that you and your friends have booked their places at this year's AJR Celebration Tea with Light Opera, together with the appropriate payment at £18 per place made to the AJR Charitable Trust, and return them to:
The AJR Functions Secretary, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal, London NW3 6AL.

Members and supporters of the AJR are once again invited to advertise in, and give their support to, a souvenir brochure to further the work of Self Aid for Refugees. Well-wishers are invited to insert messages (maximum of 14 words) at a cost of £50; grandchildren may be recorded at £10 per name (or £25 for three or more). Order forms and further details available on request from the AJR Functions Secretary, tel 020 7431 6161.

Memorial sculpture at Liverpool Street



PHOTO: RONALD CHANNING

The Kindertransport memorial sculpture, built as a wooden mock-up, was placed *in situ* at the main entrance piazza of London's Liverpool Street Station to test and evaluate the subtleties of light and space on its proposed site. The sculpture, which has received the support of the AJR, will be a permanent reminder of the arrival at the station of the children of the Kindertransport who had embarked on specially arranged trains from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia in 1938-39 to find refuge in Britain, sadly leaving their parents behind. Venezuelan sculptor Flor Kent, foreground, is creating the actual sculpture in stone, bronze, metal and glass. The unveiling is planned to coincide with next year's Holocaust Memorial Day.

Central Office For Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

Austrian Reconciliation Fund

Following the rejection last July of two law suits in a US court against the Federal Republic of Austria, the Austrian Reconciliation Fund has paid compensation to more than 60,000 victims of Nazi persecution used as slave and forced labourers on the territory of present-day Austria. In exchange for providing reparations and endowing the fund with \$280 million, the Austrian state and industry have secured legal peace.

Similar to the Foundation created in Germany, the Austrian Reconciliation Fund makes compensation payments for slave labourers - AS 105,000 (approximately £4,000) - and forced labourers - AS 35,000 (approximately £1,500). A third category of labourers who worked exclusively in agriculture and forestry will receive a payment of AS 20,000 (approximately £700).

The deadline for making applications is 27 November 2002. Completed applications and further enquiries should be addressed to PO Box 44, A-1011 Vienna, Austria.

French investigative commission

Following an agreement signed by the US and French governments in January 2001, a Commission for Compensating Victims of Despoilment Resulting from Antisemitic Legislation of the Vichy Regime and the German Occupation has been created in France to investigate claims for lost, stolen or confiscated assets.

According to the decree, claims may be filed for materials and financial assets despoiled by the Vichy regime and its German occupier during the Second World War. The deadline for filing claims for bank accounts and other financial assets is 18 July 2002.

To make an application or receive further information about the work of the Commission write to Le Rapporteur Général, Commission Indemnisation de Victimes de Spoliation (CIVS), 1 Rue de la Manutention, 75116 Paris, France. The telephone number is 0033 1 56 52 85 00.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right
to shorten correspondence
submitted for publication

CONTINENTAL BRITONS

Sir - Thank you for sponsoring the Continental Britons exhibition. It and the accompanying catalogue bring to life a local history that needs to be told. If I may make a criticism, it is that the map in the exhibition is not in the catalogue. May I suggest that you get *After-the-Battle* magazine involved? This publication takes before-and-after photographs and supplements them with contemporary maps to unearth the history of locations. Anthony Grenville's essay is excellent but I would have loved a more detailed history, and it may be possible to obtain this if research is done now. The Belsize Road area appears to have been one of intense activity before the Second World War, and the occupation of Lawn Road and Parkhill Road by artists and writers from here and abroad could be covered. Los Angeles County Museum of Art has gone down this path. The city took in a lot of German refugees and its other name is Little Weimar. A rich and valuable contribution to British democracy is there if we are prepared to work for it.

Glenn A Brown
London NW11

ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

Sir - So Peter Zander thinks Israel is a failure and a disaster. What does he suggest as an alternative: another *shoah*?!

Henry Mortimer
Leicester

Sir - Peter Zander ought to know that the most horrific manifestation of antisemitism in the last 2,000 years of Jewish history resulted in the creation of the State of Israel - not the

other way round. No doubt if the Jews were ever kicked out of this country (and it would not be the first time), Mr Zander would, despite his prejudices, be glad to take the next flight to Tel Aviv, where he knows they would accept him - warts-and-all.

Ernest G Kolman
Greenford

Sir - Many thanks to the Editor, who takes the anti-Israel flak expressed in the letter columns in his stride. It is, of course, our duty, as Rabbi Rayner maintains (June issue), to follow our consciences. However, many of us differ over his interpretation of what he calls "policies [that are] morally (therefore Jewishly) ... wrong". The rabbi writes that Ben-Gurion advised in 1967 on what we now call the Land for Peace settlement. There is, however, nothing that supports this claim, nor the claim that Israel relentlessly colonised the occupied territories (see Ben-Gurion, *Memoirs*, p. 792). On the contrary, Israel did not miss a single opportunity to negotiate. Two years ago, the then Prime Minister Ehud Barak even conceded all Arafat's claims, including that to East Jerusalem, only to be rebuffed. Jews should know what peace at any price leads to - or are our memories so short?

Shmuel Geller
London NW4

Sir - I used to enjoy reading the *AJR Journal* and to feel that the *AJR* represented me. But now I find the views expressed in your editorials offensive and depressing and they leave me with little hope for the future of humanity. My *AJR* membership is due for renewal and my first instinct was that I could no

longer support this organisation. But on reflection I feel that like-minded people - Dr Peter Foot, W. Suschizky, Jon Rumney, Eric Sanders, Rabbi John Rayner, Peter Zander, Inge Trott and myself - should not let you speak for all Jews or Jewish refugees. So I enclose my subscription. It is obvious to me that terrorism has not been stopped by the actions of Bush and New Labour or by Sharon's efforts. It is imperative to find a new and just approach to end the conflict.

H L Vajifdar
London SW13

ANTI-FREUD

Sir - Articles and letters published in Jewish journals sometimes refer to so-called "Jewish self-hatred" or "denial". These terms are often used to suggest that when a Jew makes some criticism of Israel or other Jews, this is indicative of some subconscious psychopathology or identity confusion. These terms are largely derived from Freudian psychology, much of which has long been rejected by contemporary psychologists. Indeed, many psychiatrists now believe that Freud's theories were one of the greatest medical blunders of the twentieth century. Perhaps the opinion I have expressed in this letter might itself be interpreted by Freud's remaining devotees as a sign of "denial" of my Jewish heritage.

Stephen Schick
London SW3

APPALLING TOM PAULIN

Sir - In your article asserting the inalienable right of Israel to have been founded because of "the greatest tragedy any people ever suffered" (June issue), you appear to be speaking of 'a' people, rather than merely of 'people', and I baulk at that. I suggest that this mindset arises either from childhood brainwashing or from acquiescence in the definition of who we are made by Hitler and his Nazis, and a willingness to be pushed into a spiritual ghetto by them. We were citizens of

Germany and Austria and its neighbours. Those were our countries, or still are.

Peter Zander
London W1

UPSTAIRS/DOWNSTAIRS

Sir - The Kindertransportees have been the subject of many articles and various documentaries. But it seems that no one has ever taken an interest in the stories of the young girls who were not much older than some of the Kinder and came to this country as domestics. I am one of them. We too came from sheltered homes and had to leave behind our parents and everyone and everything we loved in order to start a new life in a strange country as domestic servants. Most of us possessed a knowledge of life only from the 'upstairs' point of view, and were completely ignorant of the 'downstairs' aspect. Should not an effort be made to document our experiences - physical as well as emotional - and our subsequent break with 'slavedom' so as to build normal lives again? As we are all now in our early eighties, there is not all that much time left.

Ruth Cemach
London NW1

DOWNSIDE OF WEB

Sir - I have regularly studied the search notices and similar types of request for family information in your monthly journal and, from time to time, I have been able to assist those who have placed the search notices. With the advance of modern technology, it is unsurprising that many of these notices are now placed on the AJR website. I am sure this development is beneficial and it may well reach a wider audience than simply the direct readership of the *Journal*. However, it has a downside for those who, like myself, are very non-technical, rarely use computers and prefer the written word. It was therefore with some dismay that I read the March issue, which suggests that there will be far fewer search notices now placed in the *Journal*

itself. It seems that the move towards electronic technology will be at the expense of us less technical mortals who cannot easily handle this particular method of communication.

I realise that space in your *Journal* must be at a premium, but I hope this does not mean that the search notices will now be virtually excluded from your pages. For me personally this would be a sad development, but I venture to suggest that it may be to the disadvantage of even some of your readership to rely entirely on electronic technology, and not offer the information to your readers through both approaches. I would be interested to see if other readers have views on this matter.

Anthony Joseph
The Jewish Historical Society
of England, Birmingham Branch

MISTRANSLATION

Sir - On page 2 of the May issue you published an article about the former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt claiming that the German people are racist. However, on the letter page of *The Guardian* (27 April), Helmut Schmidt shows that 'racist' is a mistranslation for xenophobic. In all fairness, I think you should publish his correction in your next edition. There are enough misunderstandings and resentments in this world without adding to them by careless translations.

Mrs M E Felix
Leytonstone

PENNY PLAIN, PLEASE

Sir - Re Claire Parker's complaint (May issue) that Richard Grunberger "Doesn't use plain English", I would like to know how she would rewrite "Is it going too far to see Islamic Judeophobia as an expression of Oedipal rage?" in "plain English"? Claire Parker - presumably a Jewish refugee - claims to be unaware of words such as "polytheism". Is she having us on?

Marianne Walter
Cheshire

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ART NOTES

Gloria Tessler

Would you donate your body for plastination? I first considered Prof Gunther von Hagens's *Body Worlds* at the Atlantis Gallery a definite no-no. But curiosity won me over. Was I on the way to a Burke and Hare horror show? Would the Prof prove to be the Frankenstein of monstrous art?

The show began with the embryonic development of the human skeleton. And moved on to the way the bony plates of the newborn's cranium overlap like shingles in order to allow passage through the narrow birth canal. I went on to hip and knee replacements, the gleaming steel revealed by the flesh, parted like an opened pear.

But worse followed: fretworks of bright red human fibre - nerve systems under glass like the latest designer see-through bodice, the cadaver holding his skin up like a trophy; the swordsman split so he appears three-dimensional; the swimmer, blond and young, hope and ambition still engraved on his distorted face; the runner with flesh flying off him like the buttresses of some baroque masterpiece; and, worst of all, a mother with an eight-month-old baby in her womb. Because sinew, bone and the nervous system do not shock as much as the sight of blood, this exhibition only gets to you slowly.

Donor consent forms are prominent. Did the pregnant mother really consent? Did her unborn child? Von Hagens is an anatomist who developed his unusual technique because he feels the general public wants to know what lies beyond the terms 'heart attack', 'cancer' and 'diabetes'. Theologians, politicians, art historians have all joined the debate about the moral issues involved in this professor's plastination of the human dead. In Europe six million people have already seen his exhibition. Morality aside, is it art? Yes, if art in this context is that curious twenty-first century configuration of maths, science, sound and vision. The

bodies themselves are so treated that they bend like the plasticine figures you made as a child. You can create the Michaelangelo David out of a well-formed plasticised body if you so wish. But this show - arguably a development of Damian Hirst's dissected cow - worries me because it feels like the slippery slope to dehumanisation.

Judaism, like other faiths, demands that the dead be respectfully buried. Jean Anouilh based his existentialist drama *Antigone* on this very essence of the dignity of burial. Donating your body to science is a worthy exception, but that is in the interests of saving life, which this exhibition is not. Mankind's greatest danger is its own dehumanisation. In his book *Our Posthuman Future*, Francis Fukuyama argues that the danger of biotechnology is its tendency to project us into a "post-human stage of history". If, as consumers of art, we are always seeking the latest and most tasteless, what's the next road-show? The bloodied body parts of a suicide bomber?



The Corner House by Ludwig Meidner

More happily, the Ben Uri Gallery is at last in its new home at 108a Boundary Road, St John's Wood, London, from where it launched its exclusive Ludwig and Else Meidner Exhibition from June to September. There are over 50 works in this first major collection of works by the expressionist and his wife since 1949. More next month.

RG's INTERFACE

Cambridge. Hollywood star John Malkovich told the Cambridge Union that he wanted to kill George Galloway MP and *The Independent's* Middle East correspondent Robert Fisk - two leading UK advocates of the Palestinian cause. Afterwards Fisk speculated that the actor might be refused further visas to Britain. (Strangely, no similar thought occurred to him when, a month earlier, Oxford don Tom Paulin called for the murder of Brooklyn-born settlers on occupied Palestinian land.)

Cannes. The American Jewish Congress's call for a boycott of the French film festival - because of the alleged current recrudescence of Vichy-style antisemitism (*pace* Ambassador Daniel Bernard's reference to 'sh...y little Israel'), and the burning down of synagogues - fell on deaf ears. Woody Allen premiered *Hollywood Ending* there, but an event with far greater Jewish resonance was the first showing of Roman Polanski's Holocaust film *The Pianist*.

London. Charlotte Eilenberg's 'German refugee play' *The Lucky Ones* was staged at the Hampstead Theatre to great critical acclaim. The critics were less unanimous about the merits of Diane Samuel's attempt to follow up the success of *Kindertransport* with a play about Mata Hari.

Hamburg. Franz Molnar's classic *Liliom*, on which the musical *Carousel* was based, received a drastically new production at the Thalia Theater. Sections of the audience felt so provoked by it that ex-Burgomaster Klaus von Dohnany disrupted the premiere with an interjection from the stalls.

Vienna. The centenary of the birth of the Polish tenor Jan Kiepura has just been marked by a special performance of his 1937 film *Der Zauber der Boheme* in the presence of his co-star, and widow, the nonagenarian Marta Eggerth. The similarly nonagenarian Marcel Prawy, dubbed 'Vienna's *Opernführer*' (he, incidentally, was Kiepura's secretary in the USA), has launched a series of concerts of music banned by the Nazis.

Clawing back the loot

UNSER WIEN: ARISIERUNG AUF
ÖSTERREICHISCH

Tina Walzer and Stephan Templ

Berlin: Aufbau-Verlag, 2001

The first part of this book describes in great detail the processes of expropriation that followed the Anschluss - and followed it immediately. There were actions on 12 March, when the Viennese got busy even before the Germans were installed, applying the so-called 'wilde Arisierung' - plain theft without even the dubious cloak of Nazi laws. Those who profited from these robberies were largely members of the hitherto illegal Austrian Nazi party; knowledge of how to run any of the businesses involved was not considered necessary.

According to the 1943 Moscow Declaration of the Allies, Austria was the first victim of the Nazis but it could not avoid responsibility for its actions on the German side during the war. The Austrians gladly accepted the first part of this statement but studiously ignored the rest of it. Consequently they regarded Allied postwar occupation as worse than the period 1938-45. Interestingly, whereas the (German) Bundesrepublik set about rebuilding in modern style, Vienna was largely rebuilt as it had been, with all reference to any previous Jewish presence omitted.

The necessity of restitution was an unwelcome thought, which the Austrian governments - initially unwilling to pass any laws, and later making the legal processes long-winded - sought to delay as long as possible. The Austrian reluctance to face up to the past came from the very top. Postwar Chancellor Leopold Figl did not see the need for any restitution.

The initial announcement about restitution was published only in some Viennese papers, inviting possible claimants to come forward within a very short time-scale. Unsurprisingly, very few did. As we

REVIEWS

know, it took until the 1990s before there was any real movement on this front and even then it was - and is - painstakingly slow and complicated. It is only since Austria's museums have been forced to question the source of many of their post-Anschluss acquisitions that there has been grudging public recognition of the widespread nature of the theft of Jewish property.

An interesting and disturbing book. One can only hope it will make the Austrians realise what was done in their name and to their shame.

Paul Samet

Danube blues

DAS KANN EINEM NUR
IN WIEN PASSIEREN

Ruth Wodak

Vienna: Czernin Verlag

To state that the contents of this book were a surprise would be an understatement. I read anecdotes which left a bitter taste in my mind, and I read of incidents, some familiar from my own past, which saddened me. They all were typical of Vienna in that they described persisting antisemitic and xenophobic attitudes. Perhaps a few quotations from the stories will convey their *timbre*:

'This is Vienna, where a square and a part of the Ringstrasse are named after the antisemite Karl Lueger, but only a small park after Sigmund Freud.'

'His parents, having returned to Vienna from exile, could not save their young son from exposure to arbitrary treatment by others, from a feeling of not belonging and always being on the defensive.'

An academic who came back from Princeton lamented his decision: 'I am not exaggerating. The methods today are extremely subtle. I have

encountered destroyers of the spirit. They are worthy successors of their predecessors. But it is too late. I regret returning to my place of birth which rejects me.'

But these negative comments are counterbalanced by mere hopeful ones: 'After decades of silence, remembrance has materialised in stone, steel and wood and has become visible to everybody in the shape of monuments and plaques. One could say that during the nineties remembering was step by step moved onto the track of culture. The cultural memory can, despite much resistance, be organised quite well and spectacularly.'

And, finally, a touch of hope: 'But one must also mention the many decent, committed individuals. Although Austria still has a large number of crypto-Nazis, the former must be put into the foreground. That is why I keep coming back.'

The book has not been translated so far, and I cannot say whether it ever will be. But if reading it in German is no obstacle, I strongly urge you to take the trouble to obtain a copy from Czernin Verlag, 1010 Vienna, Stallburggasse 2, €23.

Eric Sanders

Opportunities missed

THE IRON WALL: ISRAEL
AND THE ARAB WORLD

Avi Shlaim

Penguin Books 2000

This history of Arab-Israeli relations is extremely detailed (670 pages) and thrilling from beginning to end. The author belongs to the school of Israeli historians who have rewritten the history of Israel on the basis of documents released by the Israel State Archives. Shlaim, born in Baghdad, is currently Professor of International Relations at St Antony's College, Oxford. He has conducted extended interviews with the major players in Middle East events, in particular King Hussein.

The pioneers who established the kibbutzim 100 years ago were eager

to create a bi-national state. To their consternation, the Arabs objected violently. The right-wing Zionist Jabotinsky proposed building an 'iron wall' based on military strength which, he reasoned, would make negotiations possible. This book shows how in time all Israeli leaders came to believe in the 'iron wall'.

In the early years of the Jewish state there were continual tussles over foreign policy. Ben-Gurion believed in demonstrating Israel's superior strength while Sharett favoured negotiations. This tussle continued until Sharett's resignation in June 1956.

Shlaim provides a detailed description of public as well as secret negotiations which went on before the outbreak of the Suez War, the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War. When Sadat became President of Egypt, he approached Israel for a final peace deal. Israel agreed to talks but, when it came to drawing the final borders, the Labour government wanted to retain some territory for security reasons. The talks broke down when Sadat insisted on the precise June 1967 borders. The Yom Kippur War followed, and in 1977 came Sadat's famous visit to Jerusalem. Peace negotiations resumed, this time with a Likud government. Begin agreed to the precise 1967 borders and a peace agreement was signed. Shlaim states that of all the Arab-Israeli wars the Yom Kippur War was the most senseless.

Negotiations continued with Jordan, while America took a keener interest. In 1987 the coalition government's foreign minister, Shimon Peres, sought a deal with King Hussein over the occupied territories. They met in secret in London. Peres was accompanied only by Yossi Beilin. On 11 April 1987 agreement was reached. Prime Minister Shamir, however, objected. Peres wanted to resign but his resignation would have caused the agreement to be publicised and he had promised the King total secrecy.

The Palestinians felt frustrated:

their frustration, coinciding with a traffic accident, brought about the first *intifada*. Meanwhile, the Americans urged Shamir to begin negotiations with the Palestinians and this resulted in the Madrid conference. The subsequent election brought Rabin to power and the Oslo agreement followed. Netanyahu, who opposed the Oslo principle, froze further talks but, when Barak became prime minister, hopes for peace rose again. Barak was, according to Shlaim, nether a dove nor a hawk but a *bitkhonist*, a 'security-ist'. The high expectations evaporated even before Arafat rejected the far-reaching proposals Israel made at Camp David.

Unfortunately, this book went to press in September 2000, just before the outbreak of the second *intifada*. One would very much like to know what Shlaim's thoughts are on these later events, though we can form an educated opinion thanks to the author's detailed information on what transpired before. For anybody who wishes to understand the attitudes of Sharon, Peres and the Palestinians, this book is a must.

Peter Prager

Sebald novel 'a work of the first magnitude'

W G Sebald has won the £10,000 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, Britain's leading award for books in translation, for his novel *Austerlitz*. The Bavarian-born Sebald was killed in a road accident near his Norfolk home last December at the age of 57.

The judges praised *Austerlitz*, published by Hamish Hamilton, as 'a work of the first magnitude', beautifully served by Anthea Bell, its translator.

The theme of *Austerlitz* is the Holocaust and its lasting, albeit concealed, impact on European life. It tells of a Czech Jewish refugee who, in his old age in London, recovers the memory of his traumatic childhood flight from Prague, the loss of his family in the camps, and his loveless upbringing with a Calvinist minister in Wales.

Sebald taught for 30 years at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, where he also founded the British Centre for Literary Translation. He published nothing in English until 1996. Then *The Emigrants*, a quartet of stories about characters who had escaped from Nazi Europe only to have its evils plague their subsequent lives, was followed by *The Rings of Saturn*, *Vertigo* and then *Austerlitz*.

In recent weeks, *Austerlitz* also won the US National Book Critics Award and was a runner-up to Ian McEwan's *Atonement* for the W H Smith Literary Award.

According to a report in *The Independent*, later this year Hamish Hamilton is to publish Sebald's *Air War and Literature*, an examination of the Allied carpet-bombing of urban areas during the Second World War that provoked huge controversy when it first appeared in Germany.

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PROFILE

Richard Grunberger

To while away the time spent stuck in traffic en route to interview Charlotte Eilenberg, I reflect on the refugee input into British playwriting. Working purely from memory, I come to the conclusion that it is quite meagre. Many years ago there was Frank Marcus's *Killing of Sister George*, but its content - a melange of showbiz intrigue and lesbianism - was infinitely remote from refugee concerns. Several decades later came Diane Samuels's *Kindertransport*, which signally tapped into our collective experience. The playwright is, however, of East European ancestry, and watching her work I found it devoid of the sensitive insights of Gerda Mayer and Lotte Kramer, the poetic chroniclers of all our yesterdays.

Charlotte Eilenberg is, by contrast, the genuine second-generation article, with solid Berlin middle-class antecedents. Her pharmacist grandfather owned a block of flats which he was forced to sell in 1938. Delighted to find a buyer willing to pay a sum not a million miles away from the asking price, he cracked open a bottle of champagne and shared some hearty toasts with the purchaser. Two days later the buyer's solicitor wrote to the grandfather's solicitor: 'In view of your client's attempt to get our client drunk, we have decided to offer substantially less than the price previously agreed.'

By this time Charlotte's father was

First-time playwright



Charlotte Eilenberg

already in England, where he studied engineering. He had a successful career in industry, married an English woman, and together they raised two children. When she was little, Charlotte lived in a large detached house in Kew and attended an exclusive private school. She grew up in a tightly knit community of refugees who had originally met at a Berlin *Tanzschule* as teenagers (and whose own parents had been friends). Many of them 'married out', and spent a large part of their social lives dropping in

on each other and sharing holidays.

From school Charlotte went on to Sussex University to read French and History of Ideas. She arrived at Brighton when student radicalism had passed its peak, but drug-taking was much in vogue. During her time there she became enthusiastically involved in student drama productions. The consequence of this was that she worked in the theatre - including stints at the Edinburgh Festival - for about ten years after graduating.

At this point, Charlotte realised that the thespian calling was not for her, and took up the job of a press officer - first for the high-profile Almeida Theatre in Islington, and later for the Hampstead Theatre. At around the time of her career change, she married and started a family.

Charlotte submitted the script for *The Lucky Ones* - which has a fictitious plot embroidered with autobiographical details - under a pseudonym, and it was accepted for performance. It received very good notices (*pace* our June issue) and played to full houses. She has already adumbrated the outline of a second play, but rather balks at the effort involved in turning mental constructs into rounded characters. Meanwhile she is quietly hopeful that *The Lucky Ones* will be performed in Germany - the country that could aptly be described as the play's birthplace.

Song-and-dance

The high point of the Bournemouth programme was the song-and-dance evening. Sticks or no sticks, 60 or 90, most of us joined in the dancing and hummed with the singer the tunes we knew. Good fun, true relaxation and the best medication! A visit to Pine Lodge Farm, where we enjoyed a classic cream tea and the friendly atmosphere, was another success. I don't think we appreciate enough Carol, Sylvia and Annie - who are always in the right place at the right time!

Hana Nermut

90th Birthday celebration

Ludwig Spiro, for many years a leader and guide of the AJR and now its President, celebrated his 90th Birthday with a party and luncheon given in his honour at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre in West Hampstead, which he did more than anyone else to establish. Joined by friends and AJR colleagues of many years standing, before cutting his birthday cake he was thanked for his outstanding contribution to the welfare of the refugee community by AJR Chairman Andrew Kaufman.



INSIDE the AJR

Leeds HSFA-AJR joint celebration of AJR's 60th anniversary



(From left) John Chillag, Thea Skyte, Rudi Leavor, Trude Silman, Heinz Skyte

Sixty-five people - not only from Leeds but also from Liverpool, York, Harrogate and Sheffield - attended this highly successful event. There were three speakers: Vice-chair Rudi Leavor on the AJR's history; AJR Northern Co-ordinator Susanne Green on current AJR activities; and HSFA Chair Trude Silman on the HSFA's aims - including remembrance of the Holocaust, collecting survivors' life stories and artefacts for research purposes, and social activities. Following a splendid lunch, cabaret was provided by David Apfel, who, most ably accompanied on the keyboard by Stuart Garden, sang a medley of well-known songs in his magnificent operatic voice and told some excellent jokes.

Trude Silman

Essex hope for peace in the Middle East

One member had brought her brother, who was visiting from Israel, to our social get-together. We welcomed him enthusiastically: a visitor from Israel is everyone's much-loved brother. Another member, Larry Lisner, who had taken part in the pro-Israel rally at Trafalgar Square on Bank Holiday Monday, had found looking at the sea of blue-and-white flags, all of them giving hope for peace, an unforgettable experience. Members also decided we should make a trip in July to the Continental Britons exhibition at the Jewish Museum in London.

Julie Franks

Next meeting: Tuesday 9 July

South London: Rabbi Baaden, a 'second-generation' refugee

Rabbi James Baaden of the South London Liberal Synagogue gave an interesting talk on 'being a second-generation refugee'. His grandparents left Germany with his father and went via Turkey to America. His father married a British girl and James spent his youth partly in America and partly in England. Here he learned about the concentration camps and the deaths of British soldiers in the war and civilians in the Blitz. He went to Cambridge University and, after a further three years of rabbinical studies, including a year in Jerusalem, he became a rabbi.

Anne Poloway

Next meeting: Thursday 11 July: a quiz with Helen Aronson

Wessex puts probing questions on restitution claims

Michael Newman from the Central Office for Holocaust Claims addressed the group in the Normandy Hotel in Bournemouth. Members asked many probing questions about the highly complex personal restitution process now in train in various European countries. The thorough manner in which Michael answered the questions helped to relieve the administrative anxieties so many of the survivors now experience.

William Bergman

Next meeting: Wednesday 31 July: outing to Stapehill. For details, contact Danek Bardach on 01202 822362

Brighton and Hove Sarid: the decline of the diaspora

David Meyer of the Reform Synagogue in Hove gave a fascinating talk on differences between French and Belgian Jews (he is a former rabbi of the Brussels Synagogue) and British Jewry. Considering *inter alia* the Holocaust, perceptions of the role of the rabbi and the synagogue, and attitudes to the Christian religion, he concluded that the differences outweighed the similarities. Regarding the declining number of Jews in the diaspora, he said that the Jewish

population of France had fallen in the last 20 years from 700,000 to 500,000, and predicted that in 100 years' time the only countries with a significant Jewish population would be Israel and the USA.

F Goldberg

Next meeting: Monday 15 July: 'Israel Update' by Michael Rosen, Israeli Embassy

Pinner and the *chutzpa* of Sidney Brichto

In his disarmingly humorous style, Rabbi Sidney Brichto spoke of his innermost feelings as an apparently unloved but unusually perceptive child of Orthodox parents who had emigrated from Jerusalem to the USA. In the USA, as described in his autobiography *Ritual Slaughter: Growing Up Jewish in America*, he struggled to come to terms with the way of life. Following his grandfather's example, Sidney used his *chutzpa* not only to survive but ultimately to become a respected communal leader.

Walter Weg

Next meeting: Thursday 4 July at 2 pm: Laurence Till, Director of the Palace Theatre in Watford, 'The Palace Theatre's Way Forward'

Imperial War Museum North opening in Manchester

Guest speaker Rupert Gaze, Education and Outreach Officer of Imperial War Museum North (due to open in July), said the museum was built on plans prepared by Daniel Liebeskind and that a significant section of the museum would be devoted to the Holocaust and the period leading up to it. Representatives of the Manchester group would be invited to a preview prior to the official opening. Susanne Green reported on plans for the AJR northern get-together at Beth Shalom, at which Manchester would be well represented.

Werner Lachs

Surrey group converse accompanied by babbling streams

The Surrey group meets only a few times a year; members prefer to talk to one another about their past and present

lives rather than be entertained or educated by others. So it was on this occasion. They met in Ruth Korn's beautiful flat off Kingston Hill. Conversation flowed accompanied by babbling streams as we walked about in the flat's delightful gardens, all under the ever-discreet guiding eye of Myrna Glass, the AJR's organiser.

Hanno Fry

Next meeting: Wednesday 24 July: Garden Party. For details, contact Edmée Barta

North London: Coming to terms with the past

Psychologist and counsellor Gaby Glassman spoke on 'How did you tell your Holocaust story in the family?' A number of people still have difficulty coming to terms with their past - and, more importantly, responding to the subject when asked by younger members of their families. This frequently applies to 'second-generation' survivors who, not surprisingly, appear to suffer from an emotional void. The speaker explained how she aims to cope with these problems in her capacity as a counsellor. It was a most interesting meeting, giving rise to many questions from those present.

Herbert Haberberg

Next meeting: Thursday 25 July: 'Israel Update' by Michael Rosen, Israeli Embassy

Liverpool and District celebrates AJR's 60th birthday

Liverpool and District branch held a most enjoyable get-together in celebration of the AJR's 60th anniversary. Over 30 people were entertained to a four-course lunch. Professor Gerry Jason gave a short address, followed by an introduction by Susanne Green. She then welcomed Israeli Embassy spokesman Michael Rosen, who gave a brief review of the situation in Israel and the fight against terrorism. After-lunch entertainment was provided by the excellent Fynettes, a close-harmony duo.

Norman Fyne

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Thur 11	Opdahl Trio
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Wed 17	Katinka Seiner & Klaszlo Eston
Thur 18	DAY CENTRE CLOSED - TISHA BAV
Sun 21	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment
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Obituaries

Sir Michael Kerr

A native of Berlin, Michael Kerr was the first English High Court judge since the time of Henry II (1154-89) not to have been born a British subject. He came to Britain early in 1933, aged 12, because his father, the famous theatre critic Alfred Kerr, was on a Nazi death list.

They were an extraordinarily gifted family: Michael's mother was an opera composer, and his sister Judith wrote the children's classic *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*. Despite the immigrants' parlous financial circumstances, Michael attended Aldenham School and went to Clare College, Cambridge. His studies were interrupted by wartime internment. Released, he joined the RAF, flew Wellingtons in Coastal Command, and advanced to the rank of flight lieutenant.

Postwar he returned to Cambridge, took a double first in law, and was called to the Bar in 1948. He took silk in 1961, becoming in turn a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, Chairman of the Law Commission, and Lord Justice of Appeal. The Presidency of the London Court of International Arbitration was the last post he held before retiring.

RG

Haim Cohn

Justice Haim Cohn, who was born in Lübeck into a rabbinical family, has died at the age of 91. Cohn was a fighter for human rights and played a large part in laying the foundations of the State of Israel.

Liberal decisions he made as a high court judge in Jerusalem between 1960 and 1981 were frequently controversial. He was opposed to capital punishment, both in the case of Adolf Eichmann and that of Arab terrorists.

He opened his first legal practice in

Palestine. In 1948 he was asked to prepare the legal system for the new State of Israel, and subsequently served in various roles, including that of Minister of Justice. Cohn was appointed to the first UN Commission on Human Rights and was the first President of the Israeli Association of Human Rights. His books included *Human Rights and Jewish Law* and *The Trial and Death of Jesus*.

HS

Chaim Lipshitz

Chaim Lipshitz has died at the age of 96. Although born in London's East End and obtaining a degree in French and German at University College London, he was to blend into the refugee community of whose background he had a profound knowledge.

In the 1920s he was a founder of Habonim, the Jewish youth movement. He formed and led the Habonim choir which sang for Zionist leaders Chaim Weitzman and Nahum Sokolov on their visits to London. After the war he taught at Jewish schools, specialising in modern Hebrew and music. He was well versed in Yiddish literature and known for his readings of Sholem Aleichem in Yiddish and his own English translations.

Chaim Lipshitz lived for many of his latter years in the OSHA homes, initially with his late wife, Ella Lader, at Heinrich Stahl House, where he resided until its closure. He then moved to Balint House. In both places, he contributed greatly to the Jewish atmosphere by leading Friday night and *Havdalah* ceremonies. He was respected by everyone - residents, staff and volunteers. He will be missed by the countless many who had the privilege to know him.

Marianne Hasseck

Search Notices

Richard Wagner. Writer/researcher seeks information, especially anecdotes/recollections, on perceptions of Wagner during Nazi era, especially explanations of why he is so associated with Nazis and Holocaust. Contact Richard Burger at richardphx@hotmail.com.

'Lest We Forget'. Author has written book on Holocaust with graphic displays of concentration camps. Seeks survivors' opinions on 125-page chapter and, perhaps, help in promoting book. Contact Steve Richards tel 0870 7209498 or mirage@urgentmail.com.

Liffman. Residents of Suedvorstadt, Dresden until 1934-35. Father's name Simon or Samuel, a co-owner of Alsberg department store. Hannelore Kuhn, a schoolfriend of Ursula (Ulla) Liffman still living in Dresden, has heard that the Liffmans emigrated to England and would like to get in touch. Contact Frederick Taylor at vallier@btinternet.com.

Max Temkin, 11, was smuggled out of concentration camp by my father Rocco Folco and brought back to his camp. He was fed, clothed and cared for. My father and three other men signed papers for Max, who was sent to New Jersey. My father, 80, wants to know if Max is OK. Information, Nicole1@cox.net.

Lalla-Beatrice Sandalbach Florenz (spelling?). At boarding school during war at St Mary's Abbey, Mill Hill, my mother and I made friends with girl, apparently refugee from Germany. Will be about 70 now. Information, Joan Walters, 18 Coates Road Exeter, EX2 5RW tel 01392 660362.

Irene Herz. Born 1928 Aachen, raised Duesseldorf. Married name Bergenthal. Father's name Walter Herz (did not survive war), was engineer at Mannesman Corporation. My father's name (Irene's cousin) Richard Walter Herz. Address of family with whom Irene lived: c/o Gottstein, Flat 2, 50 Compayne Gardens, London NW6. Information, Rachel Herz, c/o Richard Walter Herz, 2306 Heritage Drive, San Jose, CA 95126, USA tel 001 415 203 5125.

Desperately seeking solidarity (Part 1)

Richard Grunberger

If there is one German word I would like to see anglicised, it is *solidarisieren*, best paraphrased as 'displaying solidarity with someone'. The reason for this request is that I have been looking for a focus of solidarity since the age of ten. In February 1934, the Sozialdemokratische Partei, in whose sheltering shade I had grown up, disappeared, not so much in a puff of smoke, as in a bloody artillery bombardment. This left an aching hole in my family's life: no more daily copies of *Die Arbeiterzeitung*, no more screenings of *Dreigroschenoper* at the nearby *Arbeiterheim* and no more May Day processions along the Ringstrasse. (At the last officially permitted march-past in May 1933, my father had hoisted me on his shoulders and I had actually glimpsed my mother's brother carrying the banner of the Bank Employees' Union.)

When I was eleven my mother's chagrin at the turn of events found expression in a bitter quip on a visit to her dressmaker. Surveying the surroundings from the balcony of the latter's council flat, she said: "It seems to me that the red dogs have done you proud." (*Rote Hunde* had been the favourite right-wing epithet for members of the Socialist-controlled Vienna Municipality.) Aged twelve, following in the footsteps of my late, more Jewish-oriented father, I became a Zionist. I joined the *G'dud Zirim* youth movement, acquiring their shirt, kerchief and toggle. I attended meetings, went to summer camp, practised *hora* dancing and learnt about the Dreyfus trial, the Zionist congress at Basle and the Kishinev pogrom. My old pantheon of heroes - Viktor Adler, Lassalle, Otto Bauer (all of them, incidentally, Jewish) - was superseded by the new one of Herzl, Bialik and Trumpeldor. At thirteen, we were taught

the 1848 Revolution at school. When the History teacher identified the leader of the Paris uprising as one Louis Blanc, my heart swelled with pride because I was convinced that this hero of the barricades had been born Ludwig Weiss.

At fourteen, I became a Kindertransportee. In May 1939, after half a year's nomadic existence, I thought I had at last found a snug berth. This was in a servant's outhouse attached to a clap-boarded 'stockbroker's residence' in Lingfield, Surrey. My employers were nothing if not 'top drawer'. Mr Eden was a cousin of Sir Anthony's, and his wife the daughter of a bishop of London. Alas, the Edens also evinced many traits advocates of class war ascribe to the 'upper class'. The public school-educated husband projected aloofness, while 'Madam' was a termagant, given to staging forays into the kitchen lest the kindly under-age - and correspondingly underpaid - maid gave me too many second helpings. But that was only one side of the story. The other concerned my own defects, which - in contrast to theirs - were not a character trait. Having been taken on as a handyman, I turned out to be spectacularly unhandy. Although I subsequently held down long-term manual jobs - baisting hand, centre-lathe operator - without courting dismissal, the daily task of lighting the Edens' basement boiler proved quite beyond me. My maladroitness compelled Mr Eden to take cold baths on several mornings before disconsolately boarding the 8.57 to the City. Within days, Madam's habitual ill-temper escalated to near-apoplexy. She notified Bloomsbury House of my dereliction of duty and sent me back to the refugee camp post haste.

The second and final part of this article will appear in the next issue of AJR Journal.

Newsround

Campaign to suspend EU funding of Israel's universities opposed

A campaign to suspend European Union funding of Israeli universities, launched in a letter to *The Guardian*, has been countered by the mobilisation of academics denouncing the appeasement of terrorism and warning against the rise of antisemitism.

Posters of play on Holocaust defaced

According to a report in the *Jewish Chronicle*, posters promoting the Hampstead Pentameter Theatre's staging of the Holocaust-related play *After and Before* have been defaced with swastikas.

German reporting on Middle East criticised

A study by the Berlin office of the American Jewish Committee has found antisemitic themes in German reporting about the current *intifada*. The study concludes that "there is often distortion in the image of Israel, a lack of context and an aggressive tone" in Germany's Middle East reportage.

Polanski film wins award at Cannes

The Pianist, the first film Roman Polanski has shown at Cannes for 16 years, has won the prestigious Palme d'Or. The film is based on the true story of the Jewish musician Wladyslaw Szpilman, who escaped from the Warsaw ghetto.

Fate of Hitler paintings decided

The fate of four watercolour paintings by Adolf Hitler has been decided by the US Supreme Court. The paintings were brought to the USA as war booty and have since remained on a storage unit in Virginia. The court has decided the US army should be allowed to keep them.

David Irving to undertake lecture tour

Bankrupt and facing eviction from his home, the 'revisionist' historian David Irving is to embark on a 15-date lecture tour of Britain.

Film on Turkey's role as wartime safe haven

A film showing how Turkish diplomats risked their lives to rescue Jews during the war has been given its UK premiere. The one-hour documentary *Desperate Hours* tells the story of how Turkey became a wartime safe haven while most of Europe fell under Nazi control.