

AJR INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

W. Rosenstock

RECONSTRUCTION AND GOODWILL

A Visit to the Berlin Jewish Community

When it became known that the Jewish Community of West-Berlin intended to mark the 25th anniversary of its re-establishment after the war by a special ceremony, many emigrated Jews were doubtful whether there was anything to be celebrated. Furthermore, when some former Berlin Jews proposed to dedicate a special "Festschrift" to their former community on the occasion, quite a few others considered such a venture as unnecessary or even inappropriate. The doubts on both accounts have, however, proved unfounded.

In the early post-war years when Berlin, more than most other cities, was in ruins, and when the wounds which were inflicted upon us and which will never heal were still fresh, it appeared unlikely that a quarter of a century later there would be a well-organised Jewish community with widespread religious, social and cultural activities. There can, of course, be no comparison between the 170,000 strong pre-Nazi community and the present community of 5,600 members, many of whom belong to families which had not been resident in Germany before the war. Yet, in a way, a former Berliner is bound to feel some links, when he enters the Communal Centre built on the site of the former Fasanenstrasse Synagogue.

The prestige of the post-war community certainly exceeds the degree warranted by its numerical strength. There were few functions in the old days at which the Mayor was one of the main speakers and the Deputy Mayor and the President of Police among the guests of honour, and to which the head of the Government sent a special message. Equally, the publicity given to the celebration on the front pages of national papers and on television and radio went beyond the attention which was formerly accorded to Jewish functions. The reasons are obvious. These remnants of the holocaust are constant reminders of the crimes committed against the Jews under the Nazi régime, and those who now hold responsible positions are genuinely desirous to atone, not only by material compensation, but also by expressions of understanding. This became evident anew in the speech by Mayor Klaus Schuetz, who paid tribute to the 300-year-old tradition of the Berlin Jewish Community.

Mr. Heinz Galinski, Chairman of the Jewish Community since 1950, not only proudly recorded the constructive work carried out during the past period, but also dealt with the political issues which are now in the forefront of our minds. He warned against an underestimation of the strength of the extreme Right, and he also dealt with the dangers from the "New Left" whose anti-Israeli attitude may, though not intentionally, help to maintain or revive old prejudices against the Jews. Whilst welcoming Chancellor Brandt's policy

of rapprochement, he expressed the hope that the neutrality of the Federal Republic in the Middle East conflict would not impair Germany's international and moral obligations.

The third speaker, Dr. Hans-Erich Fabian, Chairman of the Jewish Community from 1945-1950, recalled the early post-war years when the community was reconstructed under great difficulties. He also handed over the Festschrift "Gegenwart im Rueckblick" of which he was one of the main initiators. This Festschrift, edited by Professor Herbert Strauss and Mr. Kurt R. Grossmann, with Dr. Hans-Erich Fabian and Professor Hanns Reissner among the members of the Editorial Board, comprises a wide selection of historical essays, records of pre-war communal work and personal reminiscences; it is enhanced by numerous illustrations, some of them published for the first time. A full review will be published in this paper soon.

The numerous visitors from abroad included Rabbis Dr. M. Nussbaum, Dr. M. Swarsensky, Dr. W. van der Zyl, Dr. M. Munk (formerly Adass Jisroel), and Professor Steven Schwarzschild. Among the other guests were Mr. Martin Sobotker (New York), Mrs. Ruth Fabian and Dr. Curt Lang (Paris) as well as the editors of the Festschrift and the writer as representative of the Council of Jews from Germany.

After the ceremony a Memorial was unveiled in the courtyard of the Communal Centre. The design is particularly impressive by its simplicity: a huge Magen David, surrounded by the names of the concentration and extermination camps. An additional plaque commemorates the deportation of 60,000 Berlin Jews including their leaders of whom Heinrich Stahl, Chairman of the Berlin Jewish Community, and Dr. Otto Hirsch, Executive Director of the "Reichsvertretung", are specially mentioned.

There are various other memorials in West Berlin. One of them has been fixed at the former site of the Levetzowstrasse Synagogue. This plaque also commemorates the fact that the Synagogue had served as an assembly centre for the Jews who were to be deported; various wreaths were laid there, one of them from the schoolchildren of the Tiergarten District. A poster reminding passers-by of the concentration camps is erected at the Wittenberg Platz. A plaque affixed to the house in the Luebecker Str. (Moabit) where Kurt Tucholsky was born testifies to the wide-spread recognition which this fighter and critical author has obtained in post-war Germany.

The visit to Berlin also provided the opportunity of discussing with the official in charge the scheme under which former Berliners are invited as guests of the City. Eligible for the invitations are persons who were born in Berlin (and their spouses, independent of

place of birth) and who have not yet revisited Berlin since the war. The invitation covers fares, hotel accommodation, complimentary theatre and concert tickets and pocket money. During 1970, 500 persons visited the city under this scheme at a total cost of DM 250,000. For the year 1971, the Senate has DM 500,000 at its disposal. However, even this increased allocation will only cover the expenditure for a very limited number of applicants. For the time being priority is given to persons over 80 years of age and to former concentration camp inmates. Other applicants may stand a chance of a shorter waiting period if they agree to pay their own fares. The official stressed, however, that persons who go to Berlin without having applied for an invitation cannot expect to be treated as guests after their arrival. The officer in charge is now located at the Information Centre. The address is: Der Regierende Buergermeister, Senatskanzlei, 1 Berlin 12, Hardenbergstr. 20. The response to this commendable scheme testifies to the attachment felt by many former Berliners to their city of birth. On the other hand—and this only expresses a personal opinion—it is hoped that in the interest of indigent applicants who live in far away countries those who live near and in comparatively good financial circumstances will not make demands on the funds which, however generous, are bound to be limited.

A visit to Berlin is incomplete without a visit to one or several of its political cabarets—not to have fun in a city which is so full of tragic memories but because, as before 1933, their performances reflect the political climate. (This statement calls for one qualification: it would be hypocrisy to deny that the indomitable Berlin brand of humour also served as an attraction.) As usual, the programme of "Die Stachelschweine" excelled not only by its artistic level, but also by its self-criticism, this time mainly directed against German jingoism in the past and its present dangerous symptoms. The performance of another cabaret left a somewhat bad taste, not because—probably rightly—certain evils in West-Berlin, e.g. property speculations to the detriment of the poor, were criticised from a left-wing Socialist and anti-American point of view, but because the wholesale attack on the "system" was reminiscent of similar onslaughts from the Left in the Weimar days which also had their share in the destruction of the Republic.

These thoughts lead to an account of the impressions gathered in the other part of the divided city. The formalities at the frontier at Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse are short, certainly not longer than at any other frontier. Yet all the same it is the entry into another country and not into another district of the same town. Building work has made further progress since we saw it a year ago. The Alexanderplatz is now fully built up, a huge square of Italian dimensions, cornered by a department store and several well laid out book and record stores. The upgrade trend becomes evident in the re-development of the sites as well as in the shop window displays.

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RECONSTRUCTION AND GOODWILL

Continued from page 1

The Jewish Community with its office at the Oranienburger Strasse carries on bravely under its chairman, Mr Heinz Schenk. It has a mere 650 members, most of them old and only very few young people and children. The number of persons of Jewish origin in East-Berlin is, of course, considerably larger, and among them are men who, like Norden and Abusch, hold leading positions with the Government and the Communist party. But they are, in accordance with the ideology of Communism, not members of the Jewish community, just as their non-Jewish comrades are not members of the Church. They also identify themselves with the anti-Israel line of the Eastern countries. On the other hand, the East-German government looks after the needs of the Jewish community and, together with the East-Berlin municipality, supports it financially.

The Rabbi, Dr. Singer, recently returned home to Hungary. Efforts at finding a successor are going on but have not yet led to a result. The new appointee will probably also have to come from Hungary, the only Eastern country which has a Rabbinical Seminary. The Federation of Jewish Communities in the DDR publishes a quarterly bulletin. It has also issued a Luach for the current Jewish year.

Weisensee Cemetery

The cemetery in Weisensee is in very good condition. All the main paths are cleared and the graves are accessible. The maintenance of the cemetery, and also of the other cemeteries in the DDR, is financed by the Government. However, individual graves are only maintained if and as far as relatives defray the costs. Some tomb stones have vanished or fallen into decay in the course of time. However, generally the graves are identifiable and the index kept in the office next to the "Alte Halle" makes it easy to locate them.

There is one memorial of the Holocaust at the entrance, and a special memorial for the so-called Herbert Baum Group, a Communist Jewish resistance group comprising forced labourers at Siemens. This group had planned to set fire to the Nazi Exhibition "Soviet Paradise" in the Lustgarten, but was betrayed and most of its members were sentenced to death.

During the war years, we were told by one of the few survivors of the group, the cemetery had served as a hiding place for Jews who had gone underground. For them, some of the ostentatious mausoleums proved very useful, because at night their stone walls and roofs gave protection against the cold and the rain. Thus these unwarranted monuments of wealth and security served an unforeseen and unforeseeable purpose for those whose existence had sunk to an unimaginable degree of insecurity.

KITCHENER CAMP, RICHBOROUGH Commemorative Plaque

The undersigned who were admitted to this country as residents of Kitchener Camp, Richborough, or associated with the work for the Camp, felt that the time had come to commemorate this unique rescue scheme in an appropriate way. With the help of Professor Norman Bentwich they obtained permission from the Borough of Sandwich to have the following plaque affixed on the wall of the Barbican next to the Toll Bridge:

"This plaque is to commemorate the Richborough Transit Camp (1939-1940) where 5,000 men found refuge from Nazi persecution on the Continent. During the Second World War most of them volunteered to fight for the Allied cause.—Erected in gratitude to the citizens of Sandwich and East Kent who, as in the past, welcomed the refugees."

It is intended to unveil the plaque on a Sunday in May. The ceremony will, at the same time, serve as a reunion of former Kitchener Camp men and their families.

We appeal to all readers, who by their admission to the Camp were spared the fate of our brethren on the Continent, to contribute towards the cost of the plaque to the best of their ability. Any surplus amount will, as a token of gratitude, be put at the disposal of the Borough of Sandwich for their welfare work.

Cheques should be sent to: Association of Jewish Refugees, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3, or Ex-Service (1943) Association, 3 Circus Road, London, N.W.8, together with an accompanying note "For Kitchener Camp Memorial." Donors who wish to be invited to the unveiling ceremony should also mention this.

We hope to hear from all our former fellow residents of Kitchener Camp soon, and thank them for their co-operation.

Robert Elton (Engel)
Frank Falk
Arnold Horwell (Horwitz)
Leopold Kew (Poldi Kuh)
Walter Marmorek
Werner Rosenstock
William Stern

LENINGRAD SENTENCES

The Russian Federal Supreme Court commuted to terms of 15 years' labour camp the death sentences imposed on two Jews at the Leningrad trial. This followed world-wide protests. The other nine accused, two of whom are non-Jews, were sentenced to terms in labour camps.

(For further details see page 9)

WIEDERGUTMACHUNG Zweitbescheide

Am 17. Dezember 1969 ist eine Entscheidung des Bundesverfassungsgerichts ergangen, aus der sich entnehmen liess, dass in gewissen beschraenkten Faellen auch bei Ablauf der Fristen der Wiedergutmachungsgesetze und Eintritt der sogenannten Rechtskraft der erlassenen Entscheidung ein erneuter Antrag gestellt werden koenne, worauf die Wiedergutmachungsbehoerde einen sogenannten Zweitbescheid erlassen kann. Unter Umstaenden kann dann gegen einen unguenstigen Bescheid geklagt werden. Es war von vornherein klar, dass von dieser Moeglichkeit nur in sehr begrenzten Ausnahmefaellen Gebrauch gemacht werden koenne, und wir haben bisher vermieden, in *AJR Information* auf die durch diese Entscheidung eroeffnete Moeglichkeit hinzuweisen. Wir wollten es vermeiden, dass unnoetige Hoffnungen auf eine vollkommene Wiederaufrollung des Wiedergutmachungsverfahrens erweckt und auf Grund solcher Hoffnungen unnoetige Arbeit und evtl. Kosten aufgewandt werden.

Wir haben in Erfahrung gebracht, dass die deutschen Entschaedigungsbehoerden die Absicht hatten, sich zunaechst einmal ueber die Bedeutung und Auswirkung der erwaehten Entscheidung schluessig zu machen. Der "Council of Jews from Germany" hat daher am 18. November 1970 an die Konferenz der obersten Landesbehoerden eine Eingabe gerichtet, in der er um wohlwollende und gerechte Beruecksichtigung solcher Antraege auf Erlass eines Zweitbescheides gebeten hat und insbesondere darauf hingewiesen hat, dass die Oeffentlichkeit hinreichend informiert werden muesse. Die Konferenz der Landesbehoerden hat Ende November in Berlin stattgefunden, und der Council hat auf seine Eingabe am 15. Dezember 1970 vom Justizministerium Baden-Wuerttemberg, das in dieser Sache fuer alle Laender federfuehrend ist, einen Bescheid bekommen. Nach diesem Bescheid hat sich die Konferenz auf Richtlinien geeinigt, die aber im einzelnen ausgearbeitet und von allen Laendern genehmigt werden sollen. Nach unseren Erfahrungen wird eine solche Abstimmung unter den Laendern wahrscheinlich Monate in Anspruch nehmen.

In dem Bescheid ist dann zum Ausdruck gebracht, dass nach erfolgter Einigung eine Veroeffentlichung der Richtlinien der Laender erfolgen wird und dass insbesondere der Council von dem Inhalt der Richtlinien unterrichtet werden wird. Der Bescheid schliesst dann wie folgt:

"Damit duerfte dem von Ihnen geaueserten Anliegen einer einheitlichen Handhabung dieser recht vielschichtig gelagerten Probleme in der Praxis der Entschaedigungsbehoerden der Laender Rechnung getragen werden.

Auch Ihre Anregung auf Einraeumung einer angemessenen Frist fuer die Einreichung der Ueberpruefungsbegehren wird entsprechende Beruecksichtigung finden; dabei wird diese Frist erst mit der Bekanntgabe der einheitlichen Verwaltungsrichtlinien zu laufen beginnen."

Wir hoffen, dass hiermit den Interessen der Berechtigten einstweilen Rechnung getragen ist und werden nicht verfehlen, nach Erlass der Richtlinien unsere Leser weiter zu unterrichten und noetigenfalls auch zu dem Inhalt der Richtlinien noch weiter Stellung nehmen. Wir glauben, dass es zweckmaessig ist, mit Antraegen auf Erlass eines "Zweitbescheides" bis zu der Bekanntgabe der Richtlinien zu warten, zumal ja jetzt eine Sicherung dafuer erfolgt ist, dass keinem Berechtigten durch ein solches Abwarten Schaden zugefuegt werden kann.

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HOME NEWS ANGLO-JUDAICA

NEW YEAR HONOURS

In the New Year Honours List, the Hon. Marcus Joseph Sieff, joint managing director of Marks & Spencer, and son of Lord Sieff, was appointed a Knight Bachelor for services to export. The Hon. Asher Alexander Joel, a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council, Australia, was also knighted for services to the community.

The C.B.E. was awarded to Mr. Oscar Max Hahn (Birmingham), chairman of the West Midlands Conciliation Committee of the Race Relations Board; Mr. Eugene Rosenberg, senior partner of the firm of architects Yorke, Rosenberg & Mardall; and to Lady Lillian Nell Silverstone, wife of Sir Arnold Silverstone, for political services in the South-East. Mrs. Fanny de Keyser (Miss Fanny Waterman), joint chairman of the Leeds International Pianoforte Competition, received the O.B.E., as did Colonel Reginald Nathaniel Levitt, for services to the British Legion in Scotland. Mr. David Rubin, consul, H.M. consulate-general, Düsseldorf, was also awarded the O.B.E. The M.B.E. went to Miss Lily Nahum, lately medical secretary of the Salford Royal Hospital; Mr. Walter Max Lippman of the State of Victoria, Australia, for services to the community; and to Mrs. Sarah Rabino-witz, chairman of the Birmingham Central Synagogue ladies' guild.

NEW OMBUDSMAN

Sir Alan Marre, Britain's new Ombudsman, now second permanent secretary at the Department of Health, will take up his new post in April. Officially he will be the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration.

Promoted Knight Commander of the Bath in the New Year honours, Sir Alan was born in Stepney, of Russian Jewish parents who emigrated to Britain.

SCIENTIFIC APPOINTMENT

Dr. Basil Bard, previously chief executive of the department of applied science of the National Research Development Corporation, a public body sponsored and financed by the Ministry of Technology, has been appointed the corporation's managing director. Dr. Bard was awarded the CBE in the 1968 New Year honours for his part in the development of important medical and other products. He has assisted the work of the Haifa Technion and the Bar-Ilan University, and is also a barrister and a member of Gray's Inn.

WOLFSON'S SERVICES TO SCIENCE

At a dinner organised in London by the Friends of the Hebrew University, tributes were paid to Sir Isaac Wolfson and the work of the Wolfson Foundation. Sir Isaac's services to scholarship and his "magnificent generosity" and help to medicine were praised. The Hebrew University's gratitude was expressed for the activities of Sir Isaac and the Foundation within the university and particularly for the gift enabling an auditorium to be built on Mount Scopus. In replying, Sir Isaac described the Hebrew University as a "symbol of the scholarship which has been the hallmark of the Jewish people."

MRS. MCKAY'S ARAB CENTRE

The efforts of Mrs. Margaret McKay, the pro-Arab former Labour MP, to open an Arab centre in London, failed when the landlords insisted that the property should be used only as a private residence. She has now renewed her efforts and a London estate agent is looking on her behalf for an "embassy-sized house" with at least three large reception rooms. An amount of £40,000 has been pledged by the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi towards the new centre.

SIR ALEC WRITES TO W.J.C.

In a letter to the World Jewish Congress, British Section, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, expressed continuing concern by the British Government over the position of Soviet Jewry. He stated that the Government has made it plain that they deplore violations of human rights and the denial of religious freedom wherever these occur. Sir Alec said that these views, which naturally apply to the conditions of Soviet Jews, have repeatedly been stated at the UN as well as to representatives of the Soviet Government.

MIKARDO'S "INTEMPERATE LANGUAGE"

Last September, at a Poale Zion dinner in the House of Commons, Mr. Ian Mikardo, M.P., described the late Mr. Ernest Bevin as "an antisemite" and accused Foreign Office officials of being pro-Arab "because they share with the Arabs a common tendency towards homosexuality."

Mr. Christopher Mayhew's pro-Arab Middle East Council has called on the Labour Party national executive to dissociate itself from these remarks made by its chairman. The group asserted that the remarks "can only serve to discredit the standing of the party, particularly in the Middle East."

NATIONAL FRONT RESIGNATION

Arthur K. Chesterton, leader of the Right-wing National Front, announced his resignation in a letter to the organisation from his winter home in Cape Town. He became its national director when the Front was formed in February, 1967, following fusion with the League of Empire Loyalists, of which Chesterton was founder and leader, and the British National Party.

CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

At a conference of the Council of Christians and Jews, the view was expressed that the majority of Jewish parents would oppose lectures teaching the basic tenets of Christianity. Dr. B. A. Fisher, principal of Leicester College of Education, said that a change in attitude could not be reached overnight, and apologised to Christians for the slowness, particularly among Orthodox Jews, in recognising the importance of knowing about Christian teaching.

PUBLICATION OF HITLER BIOGRAPHY

The British publishers, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, are publishing a biography of Adolf Hitler, being written by Mr. David Irving, who is to submit the manuscript next autumn. Mr. Irving, who once described Hitler's Berchtesgaden headquarters as a "shrine", has denied allegations of antisemitism, arguing that his publishers, his solicitor and many others associated with him are Jews, and that he intentionally chose a Jewish publisher for his coming book on Field-Marshal Milch. Mr. Irving was also reported as saying that he had sold the rights of the biographies of Hitler and Milch for more than £80,000.

With acknowledgements to the news service of the *Jewish Chronicle*

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are held regularly on the Eve of Sabbath and Festivals at 6.30 p.m. and on the day at 11 a.m.

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

Death of Mr. L. Bakstansky

Mr. Lavy Bakstansky, who for more than four decades played a leading role in Zionist and Anglo-Jewish politics, suddenly died at the age of 66. He was born in Slonim (Russia). His parents settled in Palestine when he was still very young, and he was educated at the Herzlia High School in Haifa and at the London School of Economics. Mr. Bakstansky was general secretary of the Zionist Federation and also an important member of the Foreign Affairs and Eretz Israel Committees of the Board of Deputies.

Home for Infirm Aged

The Jewish Welfare Board's home for infirm aged, the Sarah Tankel House in Highbury, has been officially opened. The new £250,000 home accommodates 43 residents in three dormitories and nineteen bedrooms.

Hardship Laws for Women

A register of individuals suffering hardship through the application of certain Jewish laws, such as those of divorce, chalitzah and aguna, is to be compiled by the International Council of Jewish Women. This follows the presentation by the Council in 1969 of a petition on the subject to the Chief Rabbis of Israel.

Overcrowding at Ilford School

Only eight months after the opening of the new Ilford Jewish Primary School, the roll rose to 290 pupils. Redbridge Education Committee ordered a reduction to a maximum of 280 within five years. Numbers will rise to 330 in 1974 but the school hopes that thereafter the required maximum will not be exceeded. The school has a waiting list of more than 300 children down to the age of one, but only 14 out of 70 applicants will be admitted in September.

Student and Communal Centre

The £125,000 appeal for the new student and communal centre at Oxford, launched about a year ago under the presidency of Lord Cohen of Walmer, has met with a generous response. More than £41,500 has so far been raised and over £40,000 promised, particularly by Jewish former members of the university and the small local Jewish community. The Wolfson Foundation has also pledged £25,000, and it is hoped that building will commence next spring.

Birmingham Synagogue

After ten years of negotiations, Singers Hill Synagogue, Birmingham, has acquired from the corporation a strip of waste land adjoining the synagogue. Work is to start soon on clearing the site, landscaping and constructing a car park. The project, which will cost about £10,000, has been made possible by the generosity of Mr. Joseph Cohen.

Antisemitism in Local Press

Delegates to the Representative Council of Birmingham and Midland Jewry put forward the view that antisemitism allegations in a series of letters to the Birmingham press could have been dealt with far more effectively if the allegations had been refuted in detail. The Council felt that a letter to a newspaper could not hope to convert a committed antisemite, but at least it could prevent distortions, lies and inaccuracies being passed on to others.

Manchester Education Board

At a recent delegate meeting of the Manchester Central Hebrew Education Board, the treasurer revealed that the bank was pressing for a reduction of its £4,000 overdraft. He reported a deficit of £1,450 for 1970 and declared that the only solution would be if the community would accept a levy.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Black Jews

A black Jew, Mr. Robert Coleman, has been appointed as head of the social justice division of the Synagogue Council of America. The division will develop relations between black Jews and the Jewish community. The Council is the representative organisation of the Orthodox, Conservative and Liberal communities. Mr. Coleman, a proselyte and a former area organiser for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference organised by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, is a follower of Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe. He said recently that there are no authentic black Jewish congregations in America.

The Council's executive vice-president has stated that now they will seek to develop confidence among the black Jews that the Jewish community is determined to integrate them. The relations between the Jewish community and the black Jews have, he said, been ambiguous and painful.

Following a visit to Israel by 50 black Jews in Elmwood, New Jersey, the group have decided to emigrate to Israel en masse. One reason is fear that their children will forsake Judaism and be enticed into radical black movements. Their rabbi, Abel Respet, of Temple Adath Beth Moshe, said that they were prepared to go through any conversion rite in Israel if necessary.

Students' Alienation from Judaism

Dr. Bernard Lander, professor of sociology at Hunter College, New York City, spoke at the 47th annual conference of the women's branch of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. He stressed the "growing alienation and defection from Judaism" among American Jewish university students, asserting that the university campus had become the "crisis area of Jewish survival."

Pointing out that the defection rate among Jewish students in the liberal arts colleges was as high as 50 per cent, Dr. Lander added that the seriousness of the situation was illustrated by the fact that 80 per cent of Jewish youth attend universities. He said that religious defection was coupled with a rejection of Jewish cultural identity, and that the indifference to Israel of many Jewish students in the late 1950s and early 1960s "is now being transformed into outright hostility."

NAZIS IN MELBOURNE

Angry former Polish concentration camp inmates assaulted a group of neo-Nazis attempting to stage a public meeting in Melbourne's city square.

Vigilante groups to check neo-Nazi activities are being formed by the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen, with 60,000 members in Victoria. These groups tour Melbourne suburbs tearing down Nazi stickers, swastika emblems and slogans calling for a white Australia. The Legion has been warned by Melbourne's police chief against allowing the vigilantes to take the law into their own hands. Many of the Legion's members are Jewish and other Allied ex-servicemen who lost families in Nazi concentration camps during the last war.

VATICAN CONFERENCE

A three-day meeting was held in Vatican City between Catholic and Jewish leaders, to discuss concrete ways of improving the two faiths on a world-wide basis. According to the Vatican daily, *Osservatore Romano*, those taking part were a delegation from the Vatican Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity and a delegation from the International Jewish Committee for Inter-Religious Consultations. The meeting resulted in the setting up of a permanent liaison committee between the Roman Catholic and Jewish communities.

ANTISEMITIC PAMPHLET IN ROME

A question was tabled in the Rome Parliament by two Jewish Communist deputies about a "rabidly antisemitic pamphlet" on sale at leading newstands in the centre of Rome. "The Jewish Noose round the Neck of Humanity," written under the pseudonym of Vermijon, claims that it was awarded a prize by the Italian Prime Minister's Office in 1957, when a second publication was published.

The Communist deputies want to know whether this claim is true and whether it is also true that the pamphlet was favourably reviewed in 1955 in "Books and Magazines," a publication put out by the Prime Minister's Office.

DUTCH DEFENCE LEAGUE

An anonymous appeal for volunteers to join a militant Jewish defence organisation in Holland appeared in the Dutch Jewish weekly, *Nieuw Israëlitisch Weekblad*. The appeal emphasised that it was the international situation and the plight of Soviet Jewry, not the situation in Holland, which made necessary the setting up of a defence organisation.

POLAND

New Régime

The eclipse of Mr. Wladyslaw Gomulka has meant the emergence of General Mieczyslaw Moczar, the strong man of the new leadership under Edward Gierek. Moczar is known as an antisemite.

Three Jews are left in responsible positions in Poland: Mr. Eugenisz Szyr, a former Politburo member and still Deputy Prime Minister, for many years in charge of economic planning; Mr. Edward Sznajder, the Minister for Home Trade; and Mr. Artur Starewicz, the central committee secretary, who is a Gomulka man.

Jewish Music

The World Federation of Polish Jews has published a survey of Jewish music in Poland between 1918 and 1940. Written in three volumes, the first deals with the history of Polish-Jewish music; the second contains 23 biographies; and the third volume reproduces 20 compositions by Polish Jews. The biographies include those of Bronislaw Huberman (1882-1947), the famous violinist who founded the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; and Gershon Sirota, the chazan of international repute who was killed by the Nazis in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943.

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CZECHOSLOVAK CAMPAIGN

Czechoslovaks in Israel, Great Britain and other countries have received letters warning them that they are liable to stand trial and to face a penalty of up to five years' imprisonment if they stay away from their country without permission. Payment of about £60 to meet defence costs is demanded. The Prague Government will ask relatives still in Czechoslovakia to pay this sum if this demand is not met, and the property of those remaining abroad "illegally" may be confiscated. The London-based Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia advises all Czechoslovak Jewish refugees of the 1968-69 period in this country who may have received such letters to disregard them, to notify the council and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office without delay, and to seek protection.

Reports from Bohemia say that Jewish personalities there are under investigation by the authorities. It is also reported that Czechoslovak Jewish communities are limited to purely religious functions and are no longer allowed to conduct cultural or social activities.

HUNGARIAN APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Gyorgy Aczel, a Jew, has been elected to the 13-member Politburo of the Hungarian Communist Party for the first time. The party secretary in charge of ideological and cultural affairs, he is *ex officio* a member of the secretariat of the Hungarian Communist Party as well as head of the 17-member commission for propaganda and agitation. He succeeds another Jewish Politburo member, Mr. Istvan Szirmai, who died recently. Mr. Dezso Nemes, a veteran Politburo member and also a Jew, has been re-elected and retains his post as rector of the party's high school.

The new editor-in-chief of the party's main daily, *Nepszabadsag*, is a Jew, Dr. Istvan Sarlos, a former Mayor of Budapest and a Social Democrat until 1948.

DIPLOMAT SEEKS POLITICAL ASYLUM

Mr. Joseph Szall, a former Hungarian Ambassador to Italy and a member of a distinguished Hungarian family, requested political asylum in Italy after leaving Budapest clandestinely, together with his wife and ten-year-old son. Mr. Szall was Ambassador in Rome from 1962 until last August, when he was recalled to Budapest to serve as personal and political adviser to the Foreign Minister.

RIGA JEW IN ISRAEL

Dr. Mendel Gordin, a 33-year-old bacteriologist from Riga, was allowed by the Soviet authorities to leave for Israel, after having signed a number of appeals by Soviet Jews.

On his arrival at Lydda Airport he told correspondents that Mrs. Mary Mendelovitch-Hanoch, one of about 35 Jews held in the alleged Leningrad hijacking affair, had been freed on November 16, perhaps because she was pregnant.

DANISH PROTEST

The signatures of 10,000 Danes were collected on postcards, demanding the granting of emigration rights to Soviet Jews. Chief Rabbi Bent Melchior of Denmark, who collected the signatures, tried to deliver them to the Soviet Embassy in Copenhagen, but they were refused.

YUGOSLAV PRIZES

The Federation of Yugoslav Jewish Communities has awarded its annual prizes for written work in the field of Jewish knowledge and culture. Only one Jew was among the list of awards—Mr. Michel Friedmann, for "Some Fragments from the Life of the Jews in Agriculture." The award indicates the great interest shown among Yugoslav non-Jews in Jewish matters, and also the lack of interest in the prizes by Yugoslav Jewish writers, some of them very well known in the country.

H. F. Garten

TWO GREAT PUBLISHERS

S. Fischer and Emil Oprecht

The well-known writer Peter de Mendelssohn has published a book of absorbing interest—the story of S. Fischer and his publishing house*. This story is almost identical with the history of German literature over half a century. For S. Fischer succeeded in gathering in his firm most of the leading writers between the 1890s and the rise of Hitler. To follow this story in all its ramifications is to gain insight not only into the workings of a great literary and commercial enterprise but into the intellectual trends of a whole epoch.

Samuel Fischer—or “Sami,” as he was known to his friends—was born in a small Hungarian town. At the age of 21, he came via Vienna to Berlin where he founded his own little publishing firm in 1886. It was a propitious moment, for the German literary scene was in a state of intellectual ferment. The literary revolution under the battle-cry of “Naturalism” received its impulses from France, Russia, and Scandinavia. Among the six books Fischer published in his first year were works by Zola, Tolstoy, and Dostoevsky—the literary giants of the time. In 1889 he founded, together with Otto Brahm, Theodor Wolff, and others, the Berlin “Freie Bühne” for the promotion of modern drama. It was here that Gerhart Hauptmann's first play, “Vor Sonnenaufgang,” had its sensational première. From that moment, Hauptmann became not only a central pillar of S. Fischer's firm but a lifelong friend. At the same time, Fischer started a periodical “Freie Bühne”, later renamed “Die neue Rundschau”, which ranks as the leading literary review to this day.

From the beginning it was Fischer's aim to discover and promote promising living authors. In this he showed a singular literary instinct combined with commercial flair. At first he focused his interest on Scandinavian writers—Ibsen, Björnson, Peter Nansen, Hermann Bang; then, in the late nineties, he turned his attention to Austrian literature, which had suddenly sprung to life. Through the mediation of Hermann Bahr, he won for his firm the first works of Schnitzler, Hofmannsthal, and Beer-Hofmann. These were joined, a few years later, by Jakob Wassermann, Hermann Hesse, and Thomas Mann (whose “Buddenbrooks” became his greatest publishing success, reaching finally more than a million copies). All these writers were not only attached to Fischer in close personal friendship, they were also intimately linked with one another. Thus they formed something like a large family, watched over by Sami's “grossem Vaterage”. Fischer's villa in Berlin-Grunewald became a centre of cultural life.

As early as 1903, S. Fischer acquired the German rights of Shaw, whose works he gradually published in a collected edition to which G.B.S. wrote a special introduction, “Was ich der deutschen Kultur verdanke”. Shortly before and during the First World War, a new generation of writers emerged, many of whom Fischer added to his list—among them Döblin, Musil, and Georg Kaiser. These, however, he soon let go again, for his heart always remained with the authors of his own generation who had joined him in the early years and whom he had watched growing—above all Hauptmann, Thomas Mann, Hesse, Schnitzler, Hofmannsthal, and Wassermann. Over the years he built up splendid collected editions of their work—22 in all!

Though fiction and drama always remained

his main field, he turned his attention, especially after the First World War, to political and biographical writings. Among his later authors were Walter Rathenau, Lytton Strachey, André Maurois, and the exiled Leo Trotsky. No less than seven of his authors won the Nobel Prize.

The Nazi revolution destroyed the very foundations on which S. Fischer had built his lifework. Most of his authors were driven into exile. Fischer himself was by then a sick man, who hardly understood what was going on around him. He died in 1934, shortly before his 75th birthday. Among the few who attended his funeral in the Jewish cemetery in Berlin-Weissensee was Gerhart Hauptmann. Thomas Mann, already in exile, wrote a moving obituary ending with the words: “Ruhe sanft, alter Sami Fischer! Mögen die Erben deines Werkes es mit Klugheit und ohne schimpfliche Nachgiebigkeit hinüberretten in Zeiten, die von grossen humanen Ideen wieder etwas verstehen werden”.

This hope was fulfilled by S. Fischer's son-in-law, Gottfried Bermann, who carried on the great tradition during the years of exile, while the truncated Berlin firm was taken over by Peter Suhrkamp—though until 1942 still under the name of “S. Fischer”! After Bermann's return to Germany, the two firms separated, dividing their authors between them.

Peter de Mendelssohn traces the history of the S. Fischer Verlag with an admirable mixture of detailed documentation and lively narrative. His work, which took him a full decade, was severely hampered by the loss of much valuable material—especially the destruction, in the last days of the Second World War, of the Verlagsarchiv in Berlin. Nevertheless he has unearthed from countless sources a vast number of fascinating documents—above all letters between S. Fischer and his authors.

Peter Stahlberger's book on the Zürich publisher Emil Oprecht† may be regarded as a kind of sequel to Mendelssohn's. However, his approach is very different. First of all, the author is a young Swiss historian who treats his subject from a detached, academic viewpoint. Moreover, he uses the Swiss publishing firm merely as a focal point for a comprehensive study of the situation of German refugees in Switzerland between 1933 and 1945. His book lacks any personal involvement. However, it contains valuable information about Swiss policy towards the refugees, both Jewish and political, and about the man Emil Oprecht, whose publishing firm served as a rallying point for exiled writers before and during the war.

Among the authors he published were Silone, Rauschnig, Georg Kaiser, Heinrich Mann, and Max Hermann-Neisse. He also published, in close collaboration with Thomas Mann, the most distinguished of all anti-Nazi periodicals, “Mass und Wert”—all this under constant pressure from the Swiss authorities. After the fall of France, Oprecht took an active part in helping threatened German writers to escape to America. Stahlberger's book is a monument to this singular personality, who stood in the forefront of the fight against Hitler. Oprecht's part in this fight was gratefully acknowledged by personal letters he received from Churchill and Roosevelt during the Second World War. He died in 1952, while his firm, “Europa Verlag”, continues under the guidance of his widow.

† Peter Stahlberger: *Der Züricher Verleger Emil Oprecht und die deutsche politische Emigration 1933-1945*. Europa Verlag, Zuerich, 1970. 407 pp. DM 28.

* Peter de Mendelssohn: *S. Fischer und sein Verlag*. S. Fischer, Frankfurt a.M., 1970. 1,487 pp. DM 64.

Old Acquaintances

News from Everywhere: Peter Zadek has been appointed Intendant of the Bochum Theatre.—In Berlin, Herbert Gruenbaum, who returned from Israel a few years ago, and Lotte Stein have been made State Actors.—The London Royal Society of Artists has elected Friedrich Luft, the leading dramatic critic of *Die Welt*, as a Fellow.—Alfred H. Unger, interviewed Willy Brandt for B.B.C.'s European service.—Marcel Ophuels, son of Max Ophuels of “La Ronde” fame, produced Sascha Guitry's “Zwei ganze Tage” for Hamburg's TV.

Germany: Shmuel Rodensky, who starred in the German version of “Fiddler on the Roof” (“Anatevka”), refused an invitation to repeat his performance in East Germany.—F. Bruckner's “Krankheit der Jugend” was revived in Wiesbaden.—In Hamburg, Peter Goldbaum, son of Wenzel Goldbaum, adapted and directed Agatha Christie's “Ein Fremder klopft an”.—The congress of the new association of German writers which met in Stuttgart was attended by 3,000 members.

This and That: Stefan Lorant, who now lives in the United States, is working on a pictorial history of Germany before the Nazis. Until 1933 he was editor of *Muenchner Illustrierte*. After his release from Dachau he came to London, where he recorded his K.Z. experiences in a book entitled “I Was Hitler's Prisoner”. Later he founded “Lilliput” and “Picture Post”.

Home News: Peter Kortner, son of the actor, sold the film rights of his first novel, “Jim for Sale”. He was responsible for the script of “There's a Girl in My Soup”.—The German Government has purchased Douglas House in Richmond for £230,000 for a German school. It was there that John Gay wrote “The Beggars' Opera”.

Obituary: Gerhard Hirsch, the 47-year-old managing director of Hamburg's Schauspielhaus, took his own life. Born in Eldena, near Greifswald, he emigrated to Israel, but returned to Germany after the war. In the bookshop he first started in Berlin he met O. F. Schuh, who interested the young man in the theatre. When Schuh succeeded Gustaf Gruendgens at the Schauspielhaus he appointed Hirsch as his business manager. The reason for Hirsch's suicide is unknown, but it might have been that he had hoped to take over when H. Lietzau resigned recently.—Franz Mittler, the Austrian composer who accompanied Karl Kraus in his Offenbach recitations, has died in Munich. He spent the war years in the States.

About Books and Authors: Luiselotte Enderle, Erich Kaestner's wife, has had a collection of “Kaestner anekdotisch” published by Kinder-Verlag in Munich.—Lilli Palmer's autobiography, in novel form, is being published in March.—East Germany's Henschel-Verlag is publishing Walter Wiclair's autobiography, “Von Kreuzburg bis Hollywood”. The author lives in Los Angeles.—Reviewing “The Letters of Thomas Mann”, published by Secker and Warburg, W. H. Auden, who married Mann's daughter Erika, disclosed that the famous author must have written 20,000 letters in longhand, apart from the thousands he dictated.—The actor, Hubert von Mayerinck, whose book, “Meine beruehmten Freundinnen”, proved most successful, is now writing another book, “Meine beruehmten Aerzte”.

PEM

KURT HILLERS MEMOIREN

Seine Erinnerungen "Leben gegen die Zeit" (Rowohlt) sollten auch seine Mit- und Umwelt daran erinnern, dass sie in Kurt Hiller, der vor kurzem 85 Jahre geworden ist, einen der letzten grossen Apostel der Vernunft und Kämpfer des Humanismus hat, einen Geist von europäischem Format in der Reihe der Lichtenberg, Börne, André Gide.

Kurt Hiller wurde 1885 als Sohn eines jüdischen Fabrikanten in Berlin geboren. Er studierte bei Franz von Liszt Rechtswissenschaft und bei Georg Simmel Philosophie, und bereits mit 23 Jahren veröffentlichte er sein erstes Buch, "Das Recht über sich selbst", eine juristisch-philosophische Polemik gegen das damalige Strafrecht. Für eine Weile widmete er sich dann der jungen Literatur, der er den bis dahin nur in der Malerei bekannten Namen Expressionismus gab. In seinem 1909 gegründeten Dichterkreis traten zum ersten Mal Georg Heym, Jakob van Hoddis, Gottfried Benn und Else Lasker-Schüler an die Öffentlichkeit. Seine drei Jahre später herausgegebene Anthologie "Der Kondor" liess alle auch heute noch bedeutenden Lyriker des Expressionismus zu Worte kommen. Hillers Beiträge in den Zeitschriften "Aktion", "Pan", und "Sturm" und seine zweibändige "Weisheit der Langenweile" verhalfen dem literarischen Expressionismus zum Durchbruch. Er jedoch betrachtet diese Epoche seines Wirkens nur als eine Uebergangsphase.

Hiller selbst hat sich als "Politosoph" bezeichnet, was sagen will, dass er in jenen Bezirken zuhause ist, in denen Politik und Philosophie sich mischen. Seine Neuprägung des Begriffes "Demokratie" ist vielleicht die bedeutendste seiner staatsphilosophischen Definitionen. Hiller löst das liberale Element der Demokratie von dem Prinzip der Majorität. Das eine—Diskussion, Recht der Persönlichkeit, Maximum an Freiheit—ist für ihn die Weiterführung der Ideen Platons; in dem anderen—der absoluten Herrschaft der Mehrheit—sieht er eine Verfallserscheinung, die immer zum Sieg der Dummheit und manchmal sogar der Barbarei geführt hat.

In seiner Konzeption eines "freiheitlichen Sozialismus"—als Aktivist versuchte er dieser Konzeption organisatorische Form zu geben—distanzierte er sich von Karl Marx, insbesondere von seinem Materialismus und ökonomischen Determinismus, denen er den menschlichen Willen, die Idee, den Geist entgegensetzt. Mehr noch distanzierte er sich von den Marxisten, und von den Kommunisten wurde er verfolgt, verleumdet, denunziert und gehohlet. Niemand hat er den Kampf gegen die Despotie, auch gegen die rote, aufgegeben. Sein Aktivismus, "bei lebendigem Leibe ins Paradies zu kommen", gründet sich auf die Logokratie, die Herrschaft der Geistigen, denen "Geist . . . sittliche Aktion bedeutet". Diese Ideen—eine Synthese von Sozialismus und Aristokratismus—fanden ihren Ausdruck in seinen Büchern "Aufbruch zum Paradies" (1922) und "Verwirklichung des Geistes im Staate" (1925).

Schon vor dem Ersten Weltkrieg nahm Hiller sich die Misstände der gesellschaftlichen Realität vor, von den Bezirken der Justiz über das Parteiwesen bis zur Sexualpolitik und der Presse. Als Herausgeber der "Ziel"—Jahrbücher setzte er einer ganzen Generation den Stempel seiner Persönlichkeit auf. In jenen Jahren war er aktiv im "Rate der Geistigen Arbeiter", im "Ausschuss für Sexualreform", in der von ihm ins Leben gerufenen "Gruppe revolutionärer Pazifisten", zu deren Mitstreitern Heinrich Mann, Kurt Tucholsky, Carl von

Ossietsky und Ernst Toller gehörten. Bis zum Ausbruch der Barbarei 1933 zählte er zu den profiliertesten Mitarbeitern der "Weltbühne". Kurt Hiller ist ein glühender Bejaher ebenso wie ein fanatischer Verneiner, einer, der Ehrfurcht vor dem Grossen und Schönen hat und Hass und Verachtung für Dummheit und Lüge (er gehört zu den Verehrern von Alfred Kerr und zu den erbitterten Gegnern von Hegel). "Man hatte die Hochgestuftheit eines an den realen Koexistenzproblemen uninteressierten Kunstnobismus und das sozial-oppositionelle, redlich rebellische Kafferntum. Zwischen diesen Polen blieb der Aequator schöpferischer Kulturpolitik jahrelang unbewohnt"—diese Worte über Karl Kraus kennzeichnen auch seinen eigenen Standort: er selbst hat auf jenem "Aequator" seit fast 65 Jahren "kritisch-analytisch, antidumpf, die Dummheit zersetzend, erlöserisch, klar und human, 'jüdisch', gekämpft und gestritten, gewettert und gelitten, kompromisslos und unkompromittiert, parteiisch, aber unparteilich, mit dem Mut zum Nonkonformismus und zur Unpopularität, und mit der Kraft zum gerechten Zorn, ebenso wie zur Liebe und Begeisterung.

Seine Schaffenskraft bewährte und bewahrte sich, ungebrochen durch eine qualvolle KZ-Haft, auch im Exil, das ihn von der Tschechoslowakei nach England brachte. Im Jahre 1955 kehrte Hiller nach Deutschland zurück, wo seit dem Zweiten Weltkrieg vier seiner Bücher erschienen sind—"Köpfe und Tröpfe" (1950), "Aufbruch zum Paradies" (1952), "Radioaktiv" (1966) und nun, als bisher letztes, sein "Leben gegen die Zeit". Auch in diesen Memoiren erweist er sich, der Humanist aus Liebe zum Menschen und der Polemiker aus Hass auf den Unmenschen, als der grösste lebende Stilist der deutschen erörternden Prosa, und der jugendliche Elan der durchsichtig-glitzernden feingeschliffenen Sprache ist auch dem 85 Jährigen geblieben.

HERBERT FREEDEN

HEINE JUBILEES IN DUESSELDORF

Düsseldorf's Görres-Gymnasium (formerly Hohenzollern-Gymnasium) which claims to be the successor-in-title of the Franciscan Convent School—where Heine was taught as a boy and which he so vividly describes in his "Buch Le Grand"—recently celebrated its 425th anniversary with an open day and an exhibition of the school's achievements. A life-size picture of Heinrich Heine, the "most prominent pupil of the school," was shown in the entrance to the exhibition, and a little first-former when asked by the writer whom this picture represented, explained almost indignantly "Of course, Heine!"

In the meantime the fight for naming Düsseldorf's University after Heine has entered a new phase: The new rector, Professor Fischer, had a long and friendly discussion with representatives of the Heinrich Heine University Citizens Committee which one of the committee members described as "important and fruitful". Professor Fischer promised to report the result of the discussion to the Senate of the University.

The City of Düsseldorf is planning an international Heine Congress for 1972, the 175th anniversary of Heine's birth, and is creating a Heine Prize of DM. 25,000 in favour of persons who "have worked for Heine's ideas with words or deeds". The prize is to be awarded for the first time in 1972.

F. HELLENDALL

M. Windfuhr (Duesseldorf)

AKTION HEINE MANUSKRIPTE

Liebevoll verpackt und sorgsam verschlossen lagern über hundert Jahre alte beschriebene Papiere in Mappen, Schubladen oder Safes. Sie werden nur hervorgeholt, wenn gute Freunde oder seltene Gäste zu Besuch kommen, mit Besitzerstolz vorgelegt und mit grösserer oder geringerer Kennerschaft erläutert. Die Öffentlichkeit weiss nichts von der Existenz und vom Aufenthaltsort dieser Papiere. Spezialforscher recherchieren und korrespondieren oft monatelang, manchmal mit, öfter ohne Erfolg.

Es handelt sich um Handschriften des Dichters Heinrich Heine und sogenanntes Umkreis-material aus der Zeit um 1820 bis 1860, in dem sein Name genannt wird. Bei den Vorarbeiten zu der Düsseldorfer Heine-Gesamtausgabe haben wir festgestellt, dass es noch über 160 Handschriften zu Gedichten und Werken und 320 zu Briefen gibt, die augenblicklich bei unbekanntem Besitzern liegen müssen. Dies ergibt sich aus 6000 Auktionskatalogen, die früher durch den Handel gegangene Handschriften verzeichnen.

Während wir die öffentlichen Bibliotheken und Archive nahezu vollständig erfasst haben—es gibt über 80 Institute von Jerusalem bis New Haven, von Amsterdam bis Leningrad mit Heine-Beständen—ist der Privatbesitz noch weitgehend eine *terra incognita*. Bisher sind wir in diesem Bereich meist nur durch Zufälle weitergekommen. So bin ich vor kurzem durch die Mitarbeit an einem Heine-Film auf das Poesie-Album eines Heine-Vetters gestossen. Es handelt sich um ein sehenswertes Familiendokument, in dem sich die meisten Hamburger Verwandten Heinrich Heines zwischen 1828 und 1834 verewigt haben. Der achtzehnjährige Vetter Hermann wird mit biedermeierlichen Ermahnungen und Ermunterungen auf eine Auslandsreise geschickt und soll "der Elbe Heimathstrand" und seine Lieben zuhause nicht vergessen. Heines Verwandte haben sich hier nicht nur als Gelegenheitsdichter, sondern auch als Sonntagsmaler (Schwester Charlotte) und-Musiker versucht. Wenn der Besitzer nicht zufällig mit dem Film zu tun gehabt hätte, wäre das reizvolle Dokument vielleicht noch weitere Jahre unbekannt geblieben.

Um dem Zufall aufzuhelfen, trete ich mit der Bitte an die Leser dieser Zeitung heran, uns bei unserer weiteren Suche zu helfen. In der Düsseldorfer Heine-Ausgabe wird das Werk des Dichters mit allen Vorstufen, Zwischenfassungen und Varianten erfasst, sowie eine vollständige Kommentierung aller Anspielungen, schwer verständlichen Aussagen und heute nicht mehr bekannter historischer Details geboten. Dieses Ziel können wir nur erreichen, wenn wir die noch vorhandenen Quellen so vollständig wie möglich auswerten können. Die Ausgabe wird 16 Bände umfassen und ab 1972 erscheinen. Nach den Erfahrungen anderer grosser Editionen wird der kommerzielle Wert von Manuskripten durch die wissenschaftliche Behandlung nicht gemindert. Im Gegenteil: mit der Verbreitung des Autors und der fachmännischen Zuordnung des betreffenden Einzelstücks steigt meist auch sein Handelswert. Auf Wunsch wird der Besitzer der Handschrift in der Ausgabe genannt.

Für die wissenschaftliche Auswertung sind oft beiläufige Notizen und Erwähnungen von Interesse. Andererseits erstreckt sich unsere Sucharbeit nicht auf Heine-Ausgaben und gedruckte Arbeiten über Heine. Das Düsseldorfer Heine-Archiv ist damit reichhaltig ausgestattet. Mitteilungen, auch in kürzester Form, sind bitte zu richten an: Professor Dr. Manfred Windfuhr, Arbeitsstelle Heine-Ausgabe, 4 Düsseldorf, Grabbeplatz 7, German Federal Republic.

F. L. Brassloff

EDUCATION FOR CULTURAL PLURALISM

A message, addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Jewish Congress, Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner, by the Acting Director-General of Unesco, Mr. Malcolm Adisheshia, stressed the special significance of the Conference on Education for Cultural Pluralism, sponsored by the World Jewish Congress on the occasion of, and as a contribution to, the International Education Year:

"Cultural pluralism implies not just a juxtaposition of cultures but a striving of each to understand the others, a recognition of the importance of each culture and an unremitting fight against misunderstanding and misrepresentation of other cultures. Cultural pluralism recognises the fruitful diversity of cultures and their equality in worth and value.

In the course of its long history, the venerable culture your Congress represents has given many examples of this openness of heart and mind and the repudiation of false ideas of a hierarchy of cultures. It is by the reflection based on the equality of all cultures that it will find a measure of that deep and lasting success for which we all sincerely hope."

The Conference which took place in the City University, London, in the middle of December, 1970, was provided with a comprehensive programme by the Executive Director of the W.J.C. Cultural Department, Mr. Jacob Helévy. Thirteen experts—sociologists and pedagogues—from Britain, Belgium, Yugoslavia, Israel, Canada and the United States presented papers on various aspects of cultural pluralism which provoked mostly relevant discussions. In addition to the 200 participants embassies from European, American and African countries indicated their interest by being represented at the conference. A number of international non-governmental organisations—among them the Joint Committee on Society, Development and Peace of the World Council of Churches and of the Pontifical Commission "Justice and Peace", the International Consultative Committee of Organisations for Christian-Jewish Co-operation and the World Council of Churches—were also represented.

The opening session was a British affair. It was chaired by Lord Goodman. Mr. Marc Bonham Carter, the newly appointed chairman of the Community Relations Committee, urged that the discussion on immigration should move away from the consideration of the disadvantages to an assessment of the gain obtained by the presence of a new population. His address was followed by a somewhat vague and academic lecture on "Problems of Cultural Pluralism" by Professor Donald MacRae of the London School of Economics.

Israeli educationalists dealt with topics of particularly Jewish concern. Professor Zvi Adar, of the Hebrew University, gave a critical analysis of efforts, especially in the United States, to educate youth in the secular American and the religion-based Jewish cultures in such a manner that both would fertilise the minds of the young in harmony with one another. Professor Ernst Simon and the Arab Israeli author, Mr. Mahmoud Abassi, expressed their views on the situation in Israel where Jews, as distinct from the position elsewhere, form the majority. It will be of decisive importance for the future of the State that the idea of cultural pluralism will be implemented in Arab-Jewish relations. At this meeting at least, Jew and Arab were in obvious agreement, based on mutual goodwill and respect. Sandwiched between these semi-public gatherings,

other sessions were devoted to the consideration of such diverse subjects as the barriers to the acceptance of cultural pluralism in South Africa; the relevance of mass communications; the school syllabuses in Canada; the Negro and cultural pluralism in the United States; the bi-lingual and bi-cultural education of the large Mexican minority in the U.S.A.; problems of cultural pluralism in Yugoslavia and—perhaps one of the most important issues—the role of adult education for cultural pluralism.

It was not the aim of the organisers that the conference should arrive at a set of conclusions. It had no doubt the intended stimulating effect and showed the need for giving further systematic thought to a problem of worldwide dimensions. The concept of cultural pluralism originated in the twenties in the United States in opposition to the policy of forcing groups with distinctive national and cultural identities to merge in the American "melting pot" and to become absorbed by a brand of Anglo-Saxon Protestant culture. Jews in particular espoused the pluralistic concept which, since then, has become equally relevant in many other parts of the world where various cultural groups live in one society. Care must be taken, however, lest the individual becomes the object of cultural pluralism. He must have the choice to maintain or to abandon cultural traditions; he must be neither coaxed to assimilate nor forced to "develop separately". The right to cultural pluralism should find its legitimate place in the elaboration of cultural human rights—a task with which Unesco has begun to grapple.

FRANK AUERBACH EXHIBITION

Marlborough Fine Art Gallery

In 1961 Stephen Spender wrote: "... I think that Mr. Auerbach is one of the two or three most interesting young painters in England." I don't repeat this because I personally needed convincing. Just to draw attention to this Berlin-born painter, I mention that so far he has had nine one-man exhibitions (one in New York), and his canvases are in the Tate Gallery and many more museums in Britain and overseas. And yet Auerbach is not quite 40. He arrived in England as a child in 1939 and, for a time, went to the Essinger School. Thereafter, he studied at the Royal College of Art.

Zion House Lectures

THEODOR HERZL & ST. JOHN'S WOOD ZIONIST SOCIETIES

"Jewish Communities Outside Israel, Their Present—Their Future."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9th

BARNET LITVINOFF:

"UNITED STATES AND CANADA."

TUESDAY, MARCH 16th

DR. STEPHEN J. ROTH:

"SOUTH AMERICA."

TUESDAY, MARCH 30th

BARNET LITVINOFF:

"THE FRENCH-SPEAKING WORLD."

TUESDAY, APRIL 20th

STEVEN ASCHHEIM, B.A., M.Sc.:

"SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA."

At 8.15 p.m., 57 Eton Ave., N.W.3; for leaflet, enquiries, please phone 01-435 7221 or 203 3906.

He once said something to me which sums up his character and his work: "Painting is a form of action, moral action—the bad is intolerable." Thus, the first thing that strikes you in the present exhibition (which goes on until February 5) is strength, monumentality and self-confidence. These may be the essential features of classicism. But under the surface of those solid structures we feel a deep and brooding passion. If such a thing existed, we could describe him as an expressionistic classicist. This shows particularly in his colouring, and here a significant development seems to have taken place. Over the years many leading critics who wrote about him have emphasised his use of sombre or grey-whitish pigments. In this connection the present exhibition is a revelation, and a pleasant one. His colouring is as intense as ever but it is freer; "Mornington Crescent 1969" is a wonder of strong but, at the same time, soothing and delicate pigmentation.

Then there are the portraits or at least heads. Auerbach once said: "Painting someone one knows, one has to destroy the momentary thing." He seems to have a sort of pantheistic feeling that everything is essentially the same but appears in different shapes and forms, organic or non-organic. Thus, a head can easily be taken by the casual onlooker for, say, a seascape. But certainly not for a becalmed one. As a matter of fact, here we may get to understand his great love for Rembrandt. As in all other subjects he paints the "truth", which really means the enduring, the eternal. To Auerbach the spirit is more important than the momentary impression. "Head of Renée Fedden 1970" is simply an explosion. The contours burst out in all directions which gives this very original painting a somewhat Japanese quality.

If painting has ever been an inner necessity, a passion and a vocation, then this is true for Frank Auerbach. I remember that he once told me: "After ten years' working in isolation, I was surprised when other people wanted to see my painting."

A. ROSENBERG

ISRAELI NEWS

Arab-Jewish Co-operation

The Hebrew University has entered the fourth year of its adult education programme of Arab-Jewish studies. About 350 East Jerusalem Arabs and 50 Israeli Arabs from Haifa were joined by 200 Jews at the opening gathering.

The programme teacher said that a social and cultural renaissance, such as their two peoples had enjoyed in the "Golden Age," might recur in this generation. The General Mother Superior of the Jerusalem convent, which has been loaned for the studies, told the gathering that the project was a wonderful testimony of the man-to-man relationship which existed. It showed that many inhabitants of Jerusalem wanted to meet and discuss problems together.

An Arab-Jewish orchestra, Jewish and Arab soloists, a choir of Arab girls, and the Hebrew University's dance group provided entertainment.

Trainees From Developing Countries

Seventeen newly qualified doctors from developing countries returned to their homelands after a six-year course in Israel. The graduates, speaking perfect Hebrew when they left, had come from Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Cyprus. Not one of their class dropped out during the course.

A U.N. official, Mr. J. P. Ross, said at the dinner held at the Hebrew University for the returning graduates that 110 Israelis were working in other countries under U.N. auspices.

H. W. Freyhan

WAGNER IN OUR TIME

A New Assessment

In my review of Robert W. Gutman's Wagner book (*AJR Information*, September, 1969) I referred to "important additions which are constantly made to the immense Wagner literature". Any notion that Wagner's work has no message for our time is contradicted both by its continued enormous appeal—reinforced through the medium of recent LP recordings — and by the variety of fresh approaches which it stimulates and of which the current literature on the subject provides ample evidence.

Psycho-Analysis Anticipated

In a relatively short but remarkable volume, Bryan Magee (who has written criticism for the *Times*, the *Guardian* and the "Listener" and who broadcasts in the BBC programme "The Critics") offers a great deal of thought-provoking comment.* He is one of those mid-twentieth-century Wagnerians who discuss the operas and prose writings in the light of later developments without limiting their search to matters of musical style and idiom. Thus, the reader will find in this book some lucid observations on Wagner's instinctive anticipation of psycho-analysis, a feature to which the author ascribes the extraordinary power—he speaks of a "therapeutic" power—of Wagner's art. Furthermore, having worked his way through Wagner's lengthy treatises which contain the theoretical foundations of musical drama he asserts the application of the theory in the works themselves, which has often been belittled.

Those who still feel tempted to underrate Wagner's status might well study Mr. Magee's compact survey of Wagner's influence outside Central Europe, especially on the symbolist

* Bryan Magee: *Aspects of Wagner*. Alan Ross. London, 1968. 18s.

movement in French poetry, but also on some outstanding figures in English literature.

Wagner's role as one of the initiators of cultural antisemitism and his subsequent impact on Nazi ideology are not overlooked either: a whole chapter deals with this aspect, and additional references are found elsewhere in the book.

The author is not oblivious of Wagner's personal faults and weaknesses. Completely free from any racialist bias himself, he presents a new and original interpretation of Wagner's anti-Jewish essay which merits critical consideration.

He launches his argumentation by observing that in the last hundred years Jewry has produced three men who "must be ranked among the greatest of the world's creative geniuses": Marx, Freud and Einstein. These and other outstanding Jews—an extraordinary number of them Nobel Prize winners—have "pioneered a Jewish renaissance of fantastic proportions". In music, the Jewish contribution has been particularly striking: it has included not only most of the great instrumentalists but also Mahler and Schoenberg.

In seeking an explanation for this phenomenal achievement he firmly refutes any theory of inborn racial superiority. Such claim would be "superstitious, obviously false and nasty", and Jews—even allowing for their natural reaction against antisemitism—should be immune from it.

But there is another explanation which is more commonly accepted and against which he turns with the same passionate conviction. He dismisses as "the exact opposite of the truth" the idea that "the cultural distinction of modern Jewry is due to their unique religious and intellectual tradition".

Great Jews Outside the Fold

In a somewhat sweeping survey of Western civilisation, he seeks to prove that "originality in fundamentals is inimical to any closed, authoritarian culture". And Judaism is for him "that most tribal, observance-ridden and past-orientated of religions". Consequently, he argues, all these great Jews have in common their alienation from the Jewish tradition, as was evident already in the case of Spinoza.

The way in which this argument links greatness with an attitude of protest against "the establishment" is, of course, in keeping with current trends, and it has its point. Yet even though the author concedes that authoritarian systems have also produced their geniuses his proposition still retains a good deal of one-sidedness: it fails to explain sufficiently the immense cultural achievements of European art and literature before the Renaissance and Reformation, and likewise those that flourished under the authoritarian systems of the counter-reformation.

Turning to the nineteenth-century Jewish composers, the author examines their position in the light of Wagner's hostile treatise and arrives at a second controversial line of

thought. Whilst dismissing Wagner's basic antisemitism as "superfluous" he feels yet that Wagner's negative assessment of his Jewish contemporaries contains some truth, and that, in judging Wagner's views, one must beware of "throwing out the baby with the bathwater", even though "the bathwater was foul".

From his own dislike of Mendelssohn and his positive evaluation of Mahler and Schoenberg he deduces an interesting theory. If, according to Wagner, Mendelssohn, in spite of his undoubted gifts and qualities, could never "produce in us that deep, heart-seizing, soul-searching experience that we expect from art", the reason, for Mr. Magee, lies in the fact that assimilation was still in a state of transition and had succeeded only "at the upper levels of the personality". "The Jewish composers of Wagner's day were among the very first emancipated Jews, pastless in the society in which they were living and working. . . . So their art could not possibly be 'the conscious and proclaimed subconscious' which Wagner believed all great art to be." These strictures apply to Meyerbeer and Halevy even more than to Mendelssohn.

From Mendelssohn to Schoenberg

Where does the difference arise in the case of Mahler and Schoenberg? Mr. Magee sees the answer in the narrowing of the gap between Jews and a Western tradition that was "disintegrating to meet them half-way". Owing to changes in European society, Jews are now "in a position unconsciously to articulate the deepest concerns of the age they live in. The Jew has become the archetypal modern man".

Again, this is an argument which does not altogether lack in validity. But, like the author's earlier theory, it is open to a charge of excessive generalisation. His forecast of an ever-increasing degree of Jewish integration in the future completely ignores the existence of Israel and its possible impact on the

Continued on page 9, column 1

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WAGNER IN OUR TIME

Continued from page 8

cultural situation of world Jewry. (A recent article in the "Listener" reveals Mr. Magee's strong pro-Arab sympathies.)

In accepting Wagner's analysis of the Jewish problem in nineteenth-century music he is all too ready to subscribe to Wagner's preliminaries regarding the essence of great art. The historian is much more likely to consider these as characteristic of the romantic period and not necessarily as of fundamental validity. The mental climate of romanticism proved inimical to the progress of Jewish emancipation in more than one respect, and if we pursue this line of thought we might regard as an ominous turn of history a development which made the completion of Jewish emancipation coincide with the growth of romantic nationalism. The nationalist basis which was for Wagner an indispensable element in art is far more associated with the nineteenth than with either the eighteenth or twentieth century.

Looking in retrospective on Wagner's claims one must not forget that, with the exception of Mendelssohn, the Jewish composers of his time were of minor status within the whole context of nineteenth-century music. That some of them were overrated explains the bitterness of Wagner's reaction but hardly affects the main argument. The evaluation of Mendelssohn may still vary, but—quite apart from Wagner's failure to appreciate even non-Jewish masters like Schumann, Brahms and Verdi—as an artistic type, Mendelssohn did not differ in principle from many of his contemporaries, except for his origin, and a good deal of caution is required in making this origin responsible for both his virtues and his weaknesses.

THE LENINGRAD TRIAL

ACTIONS IN BRITAIN

When the Leningrad sentences became known on the evening of December 24, the Board of Deputies and the Chief Rabbi immediately got in touch with the British authorities and Church and Party leaders. An account of the steps taken by them was given to the major Jewish organisations, including the AJR, at a special Meeting on December 28. These organisations were also invited to the Board's emergency meeting on January 3, at which the speakers included Lord Shinwell and two Jews who had left Russia for Israel a few months ago. An overcrowded Public Meeting under the auspices of the Board was held at Friends House on January 4 at which, among others, representatives of the three political parties spoke. This Meeting as well as several demonstrations during the following days were extensively reported in the national press.

COMMUNIST PARTY'S CONCERN Statements in Britain, Italy and France

The press of the world was nearly unanimous in condemning the Leningrad trial and verdict, many papers also calling attention to the disabilities suffered by Soviet Jews. The British Communist Party came out quickly with a statement expressing grave concern at the sentences, and the hope that they would be commuted without delay. The Italian Communist Party appealed to the Soviet Government not to carry out the death sentences. The French Communist Party's l'Humanite stated that the extreme severity of the verdict seemed out of proportion with the facts. Only the East German Communist Party approved of the sentences, its paper, Neues Deutschland, calling them "correct and necessary."

RUSSIAN PROTESTS

The Leningrad verdict aroused protests not only all over the world but in the Soviet Union itself. In an open letter to President Podgorny, together with four other people, Academician Andrei Sakharov, the famous nuclear scientist who recently set up a "Non-Party Committee for Human Rights," appealed for the death sentences to be commuted. The signatories considered the action of the eleven accused illegal but there were mitigating circumstances, the most important being the "restriction by the authorities of the legal right of tens of thousands of Jews who wish to leave the country." Sixty Soviet Jews sent a plea to the U.N. Human Rights Commission against the death sentences.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL APPEALS TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES

In a report on the situation of Jews living in the Soviet Union and other East European countries, the Socialist International appealed to the Soviet authorities to stop the campaign against Jews and to punish those responsible. There had been signs early in 1967 of a softening of Russia's attitude towards her more than three million Jews, said the report, but most of the promises made at the time had not been fulfilled. Because of the Middle East conflict, it had become impossible to tell Soviet propaganda apart from primitive antisemitism, and charges levelled against Jews were "unpleasantly similar to the fascist antisemitism of the 1930s." No basic solution of the Jewish problem in Russia appeared possible unless Jews were allowed to emigrate, stated the report, concluding that in the rest of Eastern Europe Poland's Jews had been particularly badly treated and most had been forced to leave the country.



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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES

DR. ERNEST HAMBURGER 80

Dr. Ernest Hamburger, member of the executive committee of the Leo Baeck Institute New York, recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Under the Weimar Republic, Dr. Hamburger held office in the Prussian Ministry of the Interior and was a Social Democrat member of the Prussian Diet. On account of his political activities he had to leave Germany immediately when the Nazis came to power. He first went to Paris, where he became lecturer of Comparative Law and editor of the *Cahiers de la Presse*. In 1940, he escaped to the United States. During the war, he was a professor of Political Science at the Ecole Libre des Hautes Etudes, founded by exiled French scholars, and from 1946 to 1958, he worked with the Human Rights Department of the U.N. Secretariat, under whose auspices he also edited the Year Book on Human Rights.

These data of his professional career testify to Dr. Hamburger's versatility and outstanding qualities. Yet the Jews from Germany have added reason for expressing their admiration to him on the occasion of his 80th birthday. During the past years Dr. Hamburger has, under the auspices of the Leo Baeck Institute, rendered signal services to German-Jewish historiography. In 1968, he published the book "Juden im oeffentlichen Leben Deutschlands von 1848-1918", and his essay "One Hundred Years of Emancipation", published in the L.B.I. Year Book 1969, is, under a different aspect, devoted to the same subject. Dr. Hamburger's writings are standard works. The completeness and accuracy with which, for the first time, the relevant facts have been systematically recorded are unsurpassable. But beyond this, Dr. Hamburger has succeeded in assessing the impact of the events in their

wider historical, sociological and political context. In this respect, he has been aided by his inside knowledge of political life, and this gives particular colour to his work. We are looking forward to the completion of the second volume of his book which will cover the period from 1918-1933.

The Leo Baeck Institute in New York held a special function in Dr. Hamburger's honour, at which tributes were paid to him by the president of the New York Institute, Dr. Max Gruenewald, Dr. Fritz Bamberger and the historian Fritz Stern.

MRS. MARTHA FREUDMANN 90

Celebration at AJR Club

On November 15, the AJR Club had a concert in honour of Mrs. Martha Freudmann to mark her 90th birthday. This concert was, however, not only given in her honour, it was also honoured by the guest artist, Mrs. Freudmann herself. After two Chopin soli, she played the piano part in excerpts from Beethoven's trio in B flat major. It was sheer joy to listen to the recitals of the accomplished artist, whose undiminished vigour and proficiency belie her age. Afterwards, the Streat Trio (Max Streat, Paul Blumenfeld and Kurt Passer), old and trusted friends of the Club, as usual succeeded in bringing pleasure to their receptive audience.

In her speech, Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, the Chairman of the Club, also welcomed two visitors from New York, her nephew Mr. Gustav Jacoby and his wife. At the coffee table, after the concert, Mrs. G. Jacoby spoke about her work with Congregation Habonim and the Leo Baeck Institute in New York, thus giving the afternoon an additional interesting note.

TWO NONAGENARIANS

On February 10, Mr. Jakob Riesenfeld will celebrate his 90th birthday. Prior to his emigration, he was a lawyer in Breslau. In this country, he was for many years a legal adviser at the United Restitution Organisation and, in this capacity, helped many former refugees to have their claims settled. He now lives in retirement in Bournemouth. We extend our sincerest birthday wishes to Mr. Riesenfeld.

Another interested friend of the AJR, who will have attained the age of 90 this month (on February 27), is Dr. Adolph Asch who, prior to his emigration, was a well-known lawyer in Berlin and has several legal standard works to his credit. Dr. Asch has been actively associated with Jewish affairs since his student days, when he became a member of the K.C. We express our cordial congratulations to him.

DR. JULIUS MEYER 80

Dr. Julius Meyer recently celebrated his 80th birthday. He was born in Frankfurt (Main), where he practised as a lawyer and also held office with the Jewish community. In this country he is an active member and past President of the Leo Baeck Lodge. During the Second World War and early post-war years Dr. Meyer was in charge of the AJR Clothing Collection Depot, established to bring relief to the remnants of European Jewry. By this work he has become a trusted friend of his colleagues in the AJR. We wish Dr. Meyer many happy returns of the day in undiminished health and youthfulness.

RABBI DR. D. NELLHAUS 80

Rabbi Dr. Dagobert Nellhaus (formerly Pirmasenz) recently celebrated his 80th birthday in Roslindale (Mass., U.S.A.). Until 1938, he was rabbi for the Zweibruecken District. In the United States, Dr. Nellhaus was for many years librarian of the Hebrew Teachers College in Brookline, Mass.

FAMILY EVENTS

Birth

Treitel.—Caroline Hannah, born January 9, to Kurt and Renate Treitel. (A sister for Richard, Jonathan and David.)—14 Dunstan Road, London, N.W.11.

Birthdays

Braun.—The family and friends, and especially Mrs. Carola Wolff, wish Mr. Leon Braun, of Otto Schiff House, 14 Netherall Gardens, London, N.W.3, all the very best on the occasion of his 80th birthday on February 13.

Fabian.—Dr. R. Fabian, Queens Hotel, Eastcliff, Bournemouth, Hants, celebrated his 89th birthday on January 14.

Guttfeld.—Mr. Frank Guttfeld, of 103 High Street, Arlesey, Bedfordshire, will celebrate his 70th birthday on February 1.

Schreiber.—Mr. Hermann Schreiber, of 7 Pelham Court, Lindsay Road, Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset (previous owner of the Continental Hotel, Bournemouth), will celebrate his 70th birthday on February 14.

Deaths

Elkan.—Mrs. Aennie Elkan (née Hirsch), of Grove House, Waverley Grove, London, N.3, passed away peacefully on December 15, 1970. Mourned by her husband, children, grandchildren, relatives and friends.

Munster.—Miss Toni Munster (formerly Hamburg) passed away on December 28, 1970, aged 69, after a long illness. In loving memory by her cousins and friends.

Lefelt.—Mrs. Kate Lefelt, of 79 Dewsbury Road, London, N.W.10, passed away on September 28, 1970, after a long and weary chain of illnesses. Deeply mourned by her sons and daughter-in-law.

Sternberg.—Mrs. Rosi Sternberg, of 102 Eton Hall, London, N.W.3, passed away on January 9 after a long illness.

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Miscellaneous

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Personal

WIDOWER, middle 60s, independent, own house, car owner, wishes to meet partner aged between 50 and 60, also independent, for companionship/matrimony. Box 190.

TALL, ATTRACTIVE WIDOW, young 49, living in Manchester, would like to meet kind gentleman, object companionship. Box 191.

WIDOWER, 42, with two small children, wishes to meet a presentable younger lady, for companionship/matrimony. Box 192.

ATTRACTIVE WIDOW, aged 60, own income and home, wishes to meet educated gentleman 60-65 years of age. Object companionship. Box 193.

GENTLEMAN, cultivated and good appearance, seeks companionship with attractive lady not over 50. Photos promptly returned. Box 195.

MISSING PERSONS

Personal Enquiries

Irwig.—Kurt Irwig (formerly Isakowski), born in Rastenburg, East Prussia, in May 1894, arrived in this country from the United States in 1968. Box 194.

AJR Enquiries

David.—Mr. M. David, last known address: 12 College Street, St. Albans, Herts.

Leiserowitz.—Mrs. A. Leiserowitz, last known address: 36 Vincent Court, Bell Lane, London, N.W.4.

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AN "ALBERT SCHWEITZER" IN THE SINAI

An expanse of ochre and yellow, timeless and endless, broken only by palm trees and the green patches of maize; narrow lanes flanked by mud walls which conceal the houses—this is El Arish, the largest town in the Sinai, situated in the north of the peninsula.

Nothing recalls the colourful splendour of the Arabian nights. Half of the inhabitants are Beduins, their womenfolk enveloped in black garments, heavily veiled. As in Biblical times, they draw water from the wells, walking in slow movements, their eyes cast down and balancing large earthen jars on their heads. Through the jungle of mud huts, men and beasts are thronging—camels, donkeys, goats. Only the main road is passable for cars.

Up to the 19th century the Sinai was generally regarded as part of Palestine, then a Turkish province. For more than a century it changed hands back and forth between Turkey and Egypt, but it has always retained a character of its own. For the past 3½ years it has been under Israeli administration. One of the few modern buildings in El Arish is the three-storied hospital, planned to contain 200 beds, which was built by the Egyptians in 1964 as Central Army Hospital for their forces in Sinai.

In the tense days preceding the June war, 1967, 25 Egyptian physicians were transferred to El Arish to prepare for the inflow of casualties. However, when the big retreat began, only six of them stayed on to treat their wounded and finally they, too, asked for repatriation to Egypt, without regard of the patients. Only one local physician remained, Dr. Abdin. The wounded Egyptians were sent to hospitals in Israel or back to their homes, and the 30,000 inhabitants of the town as well as the 60,000 wandering Beduins in the Sinai were left without medical care.

The incidence of disease in El Arish and the peninsula increased and started to cause concern. Although the civil administration in the areas under Israeli control is in the hands of the local population, Defence Minister Moshe Dayan issued an SOS call, and the management of the Tel Hashomer Hospital, near Tel Aviv, decided to "adopt" El Arish and to operate medical services in the Sinai.

To survey the situation, an advance party of three young staffers set out south, headed by Dr. Mordehai Shani, 32, born in the country and graduated from Hadassah Medical School. Nurse Ora and a technician were the other two.

They were horrified by what they saw—dirt, neglect and the lack of the most elementary hygienic conditions. They fetched water and scrubbed the floors, washed and cleaned the furniture and plastered the walls. Only then could they turn to the actual medical problems—to change facilities, to instal modern equipment, to reorganise the administration. "The local staff did not believe their own eyes but after a while they got used to the new routine and even enjoyed it", says Nurse Ora.

In June, 1968, reinforcements arrived from Tel Hashomer—a volunteer team of four physicians, four nurses, three technicians, a clerk and a lab worker. Every week Dr. Abdin in an ambulance, loaded with medicines, toured the Beduin encampments to help the sick. Last year he was injured when his car struck a mine and his place was taken by another Arab doctor, Dr Farah, a Jerusalem graduate. Since then two more Arab physicians have joined the staff—Dr. Fathi, of El Arish, and Dr. Quafa, of Kantara. Fourteen male nurses, likewise from the Sinai, have successfully passed the first instruction course organised by the hospital.

A period commenced of close co-operation between the Israeli and Arab staff members—the Arab doctors found new horizons for medical services which they could not envisage before; and the local personnel, after initial difficulties, got to like the organisation and technique of a modern hospital. Today the hospital treats 30,000 outpatients and 1,600 ward cases per year. Two ambulances take care of 2,000 Beduins every month—the one in the North of the peninsula, and the other in the South. "In this way we prevent the spreading of epidemics among the Nomads", says Dr. Shani. "Each case which the 'mobile' doctor discovers and which can't be treated on the spot, is taken to the hospital—sometimes on a camel, sometimes in a jeep and if it's very urgent, even by helicopter."

Last year Dr. Shani was awarded the Albert Schweitzer-Prize of the Goethe Foundation, for his contribution to the planning, organisation and operation of medical services in the peninsula, and for the rehabilitation and re-establishment of the El Arish Hospital. The young doctor, father of a son of five and married to a "Sabra"—like himself born in Israel—was especially delighted with the grant, enabling him "to continue his courageous work".

A HISTORY OF GLASS

... and the Jews. Yes from earliest times they are connected with this fragile material. "We all are familiar with the story of the Queen of Sheba's visit to King Solomon. Crossing the forecourt to the palace, the beautiful queen lifted the hem of her robe, for she imagined herself to be walking on a shallow pool of water. The king was delighted and explained to her that the floor was paved with glass". This was 3,000 years ago.

When did this history start? The oldest finds were made in the Tigris-Euphrates region and their date of manufacture is probably 2,500 B.C.E. Moses is supposed to have been familiar with the processes of glass manufacture. In the Middle Ages the Jews used ritual objects, made of glass. But I am in danger of giving a wrong impression of the book under review.* It has, as we have seen, a very wide range in time and in space.

The author gives the historical development of beautiful glass objects, as well as the different techniques of glass-making. Some readers may remember visiting the Josefinenhütte at Schreiberhau, and many more will have taken a trip to the Island of Murano off Venice. The book describes, and in beautiful illustrations depicts, the glorious objects manufactured in the ancient and medieval Near East, in Western Europe, and in Russia, as well as China. The pre-eminence of Venetian glass receives special attention. In 1291 the glass industry was shifted from Venice to Murano to keep the secret of its processes more securely, as well as to protect the city against the danger of conflagration.

Mrs. Gros-Galliner was steeped in art and glass from her earliest years. Her father, the late Arthur Galliner, was a distinguished painter and art historian, who also studied the history of stained glass. Born in Berlin, Mrs. Gros-Galliner has here in England published a number of articles not only on glass but on art in general. A collector herself, her book gives valuable advice on collecting. For all those interested in the arts her present work will be a source of pleasure and accurate information. The illustrations, in black and white and in colour, are splendidly reproduced, some for the first time. May I repeat a piece of advice which might save some disappointment "... the aspiring collector is advised that the best bargains are often found in the best shops, not at a jumble sale."

A. ROSENBERG

* Gabriella Gros-Galliner: *Glass. A Guide for Collectors.* Illustrated. Frederick Muller, London, 1970. 174 pp. 65s.

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ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

'THANK-YOU BRITAIN' FUND

First Research Fellow's Publication

The award of the first research fellowship by the British Academy out of the proceeds of the £100,000 "Thank-offering to Britain Fund", as it is officially called, has borne fruit. By virtue of the fellowship, awarded in 1967, Mr. J. A. Patmore could devote himself entirely to studying a subject of real significance for the well-being of the British people: land use and leisure activities. A Senior Lecturer in Geography at Liverpool University, Mr. Patmore was enabled to take leave of absence from his university duties and also to travel extensively in the United States to gather evidence about the ways in which that large country is meeting this pressing problem.

The 330-page book* in which Mr. Patmore has laid down the results of his two years of investigation is the first of a series of books on Problems in Modern Geography. It carries 26 illustrations and more than 80 diagrams and maps. The starting point of the research is the increasing pressure on land use and the need for preserving some of the land for leisure activities. In his factual account, the author provides details about the various types of leisure ground available, e.g. parks, children's playgrounds, holiday resorts, National Trust Reserves, and analyses the ways in which the British spend their spare time, e.g. rambling, sport, holidays. The book carries interesting and, so far unknown, statistical material about the average length and timing of holidays and will thus serve as a most useful guide to the policy making bodies. This is only one of the numerous aspects, all of which are dealt with in a scholarly, painstaking manner and, at the same time, expounded with an eye on the practical conclusions to be drawn. Thus, in keeping with the terms of reference of the "Thank-You Britain" Fund, the study has a "bearing upon the well-being of the people of the British Isles".

Prominence to the "Thank-You Britain" Fund is also given by Sir Mortimer Wheeler, in a special chapter of his book, "The British Academy 1949-1968" (Oxford University Press, £2 10s.). The work covers the two decades during which Sir Mortimer was the British Academy's Secretary and reveals the wide field of research initiated or sponsored by the Academy. The illustrations include a photo of the ceremony at the Sadler's Hall on

* J. Allan Patmore: *Land and Leisure in England and Wales*. Preface by Edmund W. Gilbert, Emeritus Professor of Geography in the University of Oxford. David & Charles, Newton Abbot. £4.20.

November 8, 1965, when Lord Robbins (then president of the British Academy) received the "Thank-offering to Britain Fund" from Sir Hans Krebs, F.R.S., and Mr. Werner M. Behr.

Lastly, the Fifth "Thank-You Britain" Fund Lecture given by Sir William Armstrong on "The Role and Character of the Civil Service" (reviewed in *AJR Information*, August, 1970), has appeared in print. Most contributors to the Fund will have received copies, but other interested readers may obtain them from: The British Academy, Burlington Gardens, London, W.1 (6s.).

HILLEL HOUSE CONSECRATED

On January 10, the new Hillel House of the British B'nai B'rith was officially consecrated by the Chief Rabbi. The AJR, whose members had contributed more than £4,000 towards the Memorial Floor of the building, was represented by its Chairman, Mr. A. S. Dresel, and its General Secretary, Mr. W. Rosenstock. Addresses were delivered by the President of the Hebrew University, Mr. Avraham Harman; the Chairman of Hillel Foundation, Mr. Gerald Cromer; and the chairman of the Inter-University Jewish Federation, Mr. A. Wagner. Mr. Fred S. Worms, the Chairman of the B'nai B'rith Foundation, was in the Chair.

Apart from the Memorial Floor with its Library and other mementoes of the Holocaust, the beautiful new building comprises meeting halls, lecture and communal rooms, a refectory and dormitories. It is well designed and well equipped and will thus provide the facilities which were so urgently required for the large number of Jewish students in London.

RELIEF FOR REFUGEES

C.B.F. and Self Aid Reports

During the period January, 1969 to June, 1970, the Central British Fund made grants totalling £171,000 for relief work abroad, including assistance to refugees from North Africa in France and to Jewish communities in Morocco, Tunisia, Eastern Europe, Iran, India and Cuba. The case working relief organisation in this country, the Jewish Refugees Committee, received £33,000 from the C.B.F., especially for its help to refugees from Hungary and Egypt and, since August, 1968, from Czechoslovakia.

The C.B.F. also administers the funds obtained from the Jewish Trust Corporation out of the heirless formerly Jewish property in Germany. These funds are kept on a separate account and have to be used exclusively for victims of Nazi persecution. The major part of the expenditure arises from the maintenance of the Homes which are jointly administered by the C.B.F. and the AJR.

For the benefit of those refugees who are not accommodated in Homes, funds are also allocated to Self Aid for Refugees. The latest Self Aid Report, covering the year ended February, 1970, reveals that more than £30,000 were spent in direct grants (£26,000) and on welfare work (£4,600). Of these, Self Aid raised by its own efforts more than £6,000, mainly from the proceeds of its function at Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Obituary

MR. HENRY PELS

Mr. Henry Pels, who recently died at the age of 80, will be gratefully remembered by many of his fellow refugees due to his work as secretary general of the Chief Rabbi's Emergency Council from 1938 till 1950. With the help of this council, many hundreds of rabbis and teachers of religion from Germany and Austria were granted admission to this country. It was one of Mr. Pels' tasks to raise and distribute the funds necessary for their maintenance. Mr. Pels was born in Hamburg, where he was for some years director of the Keren Hatorah. The AJR has added reason for remembering him as one of its founder members. We extend our sympathy to his widow and the other members of his family.

DR. MICHAEL BALINT

Dr. Michael Balint, President of the British Psycho-Analytical Society, died on December 31. He was born in Budapest in 1894 and came to this country in 1939 when his work was jeopardised by the reactionary and anti-semitic attitude of the Horthy régime. He was a consultant psychiatrist at the Tavistock Clinic and, after his retirement at the age of 65, clinical assistant to University College Hospital. His contributions to psychoanalysis were characterised by an undogmatic and flexible attitude, writes *The Times* in its obituary.

Letter to the Editor

COMPENSATION AND AUSTRIAN REFUGEES

Sir,—I thank you for publishing Dr. Ayling's letter (your issue of October, 1970) and hope you will permit me to add the following: West Germany has made an honourable attempt to clear its name. But the slogan "Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Führer" was as powerful in Germany as it was in Austria. A wrongdoer cannot dispose of his liability to the victim by making some payment to his partner in crime (Kreuznacher Abkommen), especially if, compared with the monstrosity of the crime, this payment is so derisory.

Yours, etc.,

(DR.) JULIUS FELDSCHREIBER.

40 Heber Road,
London, N.W.2 6AA.

[The German payment made according to the Kreuznacher Abkommen amounted to DM 95 million.—The Ed.]

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