

Don't miss ...

The Auschwitz dispute

Emma Klein p4

Rebranding AJR Information

Letters p6 & 7

Danish rescue

AW Freud p12

Kinder's new home

Ronald Channing p16

Outrageous!

German historian Lothar Fritze posthumously castigates Hitler's would-be assassin Georg Elser for having failed, in November 1939, to warn the Bürgerbräukeller audience of the impending explosion (which cost eight lives). He laments the loss of eight 'innocents' – as if participants in the key ceremony of the Nazi year could be thus described! – while leaving the countless millions Elser's time bomb might have saved out of account.

Compounding the offence Fritze has published his farrago in the journal of the Hannah Arendt Institute, Dresden □

The sins of the fathers

The late unlamented Franjo Tudjman was the blood smeared Vicar of Bray of the Balkans. He had started out as a Communist partisan, fighting the Ustasha Fascists and been promoted a peacetime general by Tito – yet on the latter's death he helped precipitate the break-up of Yugoslavia. He then set about fulfilling the Croats' millennial aspiration for an independent state by means which involved the slaughter of thousands of Serbs and Bosnian Muslims. As President, the former Communist incorporated the Ustashe Fascists' emblem into the national flag and paid homage to Ante Pavelic (who had set up a wartime Croat puppet state at Hitler's behest). He played down the horrors of Jasenovac concentration camp – dubbed the Croat Auschwitz – and expressed satisfaction that no single drop of Serb or Jewish blood coursed through his wife's veins.

Tudjman represented one strain of the Communist-trained post-Communist leaders now in power in parts of Eastern Europe. Others of his ilk were Mecar in Slovakia, Lukashenko in Belarus and, most notably, Milosevic in Serbia. All of them have adulterated their original Marxist-internationalist message with rabid chauvinism and have built a ruling *apparat* riddled with nepotism and corruption.

Though death has now removed Tudjman, there is no guarantee that Croatia will evolve into a markedly more open society. Newly created states often continue to bear the stamp of their founders. The persona and outlook of self-willed nation state builders perpetuates itself through a sort of cultural DNA. The shade of de Gaulle, the rebuilder of France after wartime defeat and self-abasement, seems to inhabit the mind of Lionel Jospin as he prolongs a perverse 'beef war' that undermines the position of

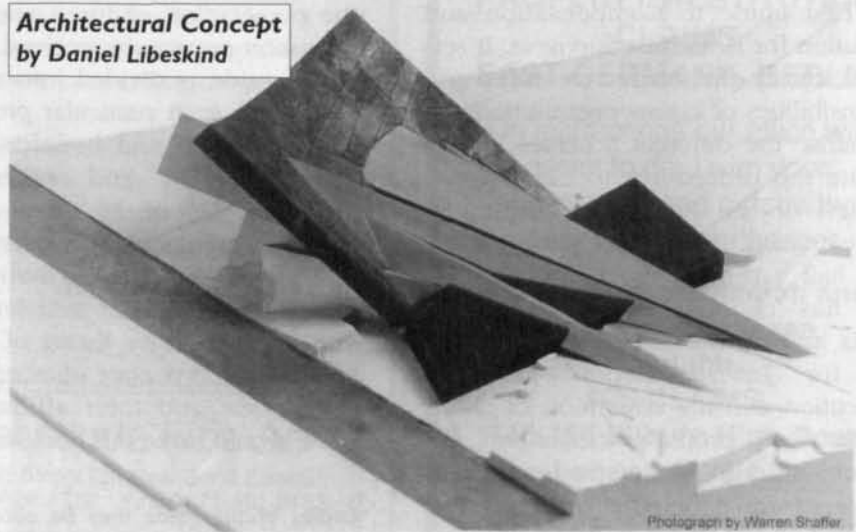
pro-Europeans in the UK.

The ghost of Bismarck, architect of the German 'welfare state' has likewise taken up residence inside the body of Gerhard Schröder, who uses public money to bale out insolvent private firms. A bizarre aspect of this salvage operation is the fact that the recipient of the Chancellor's largesse, Holzmann AG, used slave labour in the last war. Schröder's earlier intervention to stave off a hostile takeover bid for Mannesmann also has a historical resonance. In the early 1900s it was the Mannesmann concern's quest for iron ore deposits in French NW Africa which provoked the Moroccan crisis – one of the flashpoints that preceded the Kaiser's War.

And talking of Wilhelm II, it is quite bizarre, not to say macabre, that the display of his coffin for popular adulation in the Berliner Dom coincided with the death of the historian Fritz Fischer. It was Fischer who in his magisterial *Der Griff nach der Weltmacht*, (The Bid for World Power) of 1961 had provided irrefutable evidence of the Kaiser's – and his government's – primary role in bringing about Armageddon in 1914 □

THE SHOAH CENTRE

Architectural Concept
by Daniel Libeskind



Photograph by Warren Shaffer

Architectural concept by Daniel Libeskind for a Holocaust memorial and museum in Manchester. (See report on p15).

Profile

Buddenbrooks, Mitteleuropean style

Listening to Eva Oplatek's account of her family history one gets a strong sense of nature imitating art – in this case literature. In his *Buddenbrooks* (1901) Thomas Mann chronicled the decline of a Lübeck family whose business-focused founding generation produced dissolute and wayward offspring who dabbled in the arts.

The Oplateks of Prague enacted a Jewish variant of the Buddenbrooks story. Eva's grandfather, founder of a Prague metal factory, had placed her father in charge of the firm's Vienna branch office. The latter, a failed medical student, however, preferred cultural pursuits to dreary office routine. He trod the boards, subscribed to Karl Kraus' *Die Fackel* and, with the help of his wife, established a *salon* frequented by literati, musicians and painters. The Oplateks' circle included real celebrities of the rank of Egon Erwin Kisch, the composer Alexander von Zemlinsky and Oskar Kokoschka.

Growing up in this ambience, Eva unsurprisingly developed artistic ambi-

tions and set her heart on becoming a singer. Her parents let her have lessons, but insisted that she attend a dressmaking school at the same time. In due course she acquired a boyfriend who caused her to miss a rare opportunity. Oskar Kokoschka wanted to paint her, which would have involved sittings at his studio. The boyfriend – in contrast to her father – took a dim view of this. Eva deferred to his wishes and in consequence found no place on the margin of art history.

In retrospect she shrugs off the missed opportunity with the remark that Kokoschka made all his female sitters look ugly on canvas.

Realising, after a while, that as a Jewess she had little prospect of an operatic career, Eva switched to light music and joined the Singing Babies (a female version of the famous Comedy Harmonists). She toured abroad with the Babies – in the course of which she 'caught the eye' of Kemal Pasha Atatürk – and subsequently moved to Prague. There she secured small parts in films (one of which starred Anny Ondra), but in the late Thirties, actresses who spoke German-accented Czech were hardly the flavour of the month in Prague.

In March 1939 the Nazis occupied Prague. Shortly afterwards Eva married,

which made emigration easier. Just before the outbreak of war the newly weds managed to get to France, where Eva's divorced mother and sister had preceded them from Vienna. Her husband joined the Czech army and in Spring 1940, when France collapsed into chaos, they all made their way (separately) to the Mediterranean coast ahead of the advancing Wehrmacht. The three women had to proceed on foot, which wasn't easy for pregnant Eva. At Sette they crowded on to an England-bound coal freighter where one of their fellow 'passengers' was the khaki-clad Czech army private Robert Maxwell.

Safe in England at last, Eva gave birth to a Downs Syndrome child – a misfortune which contributed to the eventual break-up of her marriage. She married again and had two daughters who, in turn, chose solid bourgeois husbands even Consul Buddenbrook would have approved of. Eva's mother spent her declining years comfortably in a Home for which the family feels greatly indebted to the AJR. Eva is in close contact with her sister, daughters and grandchildren and plays bridge. Refuting the cynical quip that nostalgia isn't what it used to be, she numbers a record of the Comedy Harmonists among her most treasured possessions. □ RG

New Claims Conference guide to compensation and restitution

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany – more commonly known just as the Claims Conference – has published its very first guide to Compensation and Restitution for Holocaust Survivors. It sets out to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of claims organisations, to summarise the different schemes and to indicate the procedures to be followed by survivors or their heirs wishing to pursue a claim.

For half a century the Claims Conference has negotiated with Germany, Austria and others to obtain compensation for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution and the restitution of assets and plundered property. In addition, numerous elderly victims continue to receive essential benefits and services, though the absence of a comprehensive source of reference hitherto left many people confused or unaware of benefits

to which they may be entitled. Eligibility is often dependent upon a combination of factors, including the survivor's original and current countries of residence, the persecution endured and any compensation previously received.

The guide is divided into sections according to each particular programme. It lists payments and benefits from Germany, Austria and other Western European Countries, deals separately with the restitution of property and assets in Western and Eastern Europe, as well as insurance policies and works of art. The comprehensive listing of the names, addresses and contact numbers of the organisations and their affiliated offices alone would make this booklet invaluable. □ RDC

Copies of the guide may be obtained free of charge by writing to The AJR, Re: Claims Conference Guide, 1 Hampstead Gate, Fognal, London NW3 6AL.

WIENER LIBRARY

Karl Pfeifer

Author of works on antisemitism and the far right, former editor of *Die Gemeinde*, the official newspaper of the Jewish community in Vienna.

Jörg Haider and the rise of antisemitism in Austria'

Wednesday, 16 February 2000,
7.30pm

Wiener Library
4 Devonshire Street
London W1N 2BH

Advance reservations £2.00.

Tel: 0171 636 7247

Telegraph sends out wrong signals

As the curtain rises on Karl Kraus' *Last Days of Mankind* newspaper vendors rush along the Ringstrasse shouting 'Special edition! Heir to the throne assassinated at Sarajevo!' A bystander buys a paper, glances at it and mutters to his wife 'Thank god, it wasn't a Jew!'

Given our history it is small wonder that we always look for the Jewish – or antisemitic – angle on any public event. And those who seek shall find, *pace* Monica Lewinsky at the White House, or the 'oligarch' Boris Berezovsky in the Kremlin. Ultrasensitive ears have even detected antisemitic undertones in the hue-and-cry over Peter Mandelson's mortgage arrangements.

When Neil Hamilton moved into the headline space previously occupied by Mandelson I heaved a sigh of relief. What possible Jewish – or antisemitic dimension – could the Hamilton-Al Fayed slanging match have (except for the Harrods owner's membership of the hypothetical Semitic family of nations)?

I was wrong, for the publication of a list of prominent contributors to the Hamilton Fighting Fund seemed to suggest a distinctive pattern. The chief donor, Lord Portsmouth, had stopped attending the House of Peers in protest at the passage of the War Crimes Bill (which provided for the indictment of UK resi-

dents involved in genocide). Another donor was Gerald Howarth, who, as a young MP on a parliamentary freebie had goosestepped through deserted East Berlin streets at night giving the Hitler salute. A third was the Greek shipping tycoon's son Taki Theodoracopulos, a gossip columnist fond of spicing up his copy with antisemitic jibes. A fourth was the widow of Tiny Rowland, the ex-Hitlerjunge and founder of the Lonrho conglomerate, which Prime Minister Edward Heath, in a memorable phrase, described as 'the unacceptable face of capitalism'.

A potential fifth who would undoubtedly have contributed if in funds, was the lifelong Hamilton chum Harvey Proctor, the former MP who tried to commit the Conservative Party to the compulsory repatriation of coloured immigrants and who had to resign his seat in consequence of a scandal involving rent boys.

After the verdict in the Hamilton v Al-Fayed libel trial *The Times* claimed that the correspondence column of the *Daily Telegraph* had served as 'notice board' for the Hamilton Fighting Fund.

If that were true it would fit into the aforementioned pattern of Ultra-Right influence in that paper. As *AJR Information* readers may remember, our November editorial 'Not as black as he was shirted' upbraided the *Telegraph* columnist AN Wilson for pouring buckets of whitewash over Oswald Mosley. We sent it as an open letter to the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph* – and he blithely binned it.

□ Richard Grunberger

Wer schießt aus Liebe?

The 1943 Club – so called because of its founding in that year – recently heard a talk on its late member Gabriele Tergit (1894-1982). She had been a writer and journalist in Weimar Germany and had escaped to Britain via Prague and Palestine.

The guest speaker, Berlin-resident Jens Brüning, has researched Tergit's career and is at present reissuing a number of her books and other writings in Germany. He interviewed her at length before her death.

The talk turned out to be not only instructive, but also most enjoyable, as he read excerpts from her work. The title of the talk derives from an article she had written for the *Berliner Tageblatt* in 1932, dealing in a witty and perceptive manner with the reasons why men and women

commit crimes of passion. Tergit was particularly well fitted to write on this subject since she was crime reporter at the Moabit Court in Berlin. Her court reportages were extremely popular, with many apposite comments on crime and society.

The speaker also played excerpts of his taped interviews with Tergit when she was already quite elderly. One was about a postwar visit to the Moabit Court where an old police sergeant welcomed her much more heartily than her former colleagues!

□ E Flesch

Annely Juda Fine Art

23 Dering Street (off New Bond Street)
Tel: 0171-629 7578 Fax: 0171-491 2139

CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE

NEWTONS

Leading Hampstead Solicitors

22 Fitzjohn's Avenue,
London NW3 5NB

- ★ All English legal work undertaken and German, Swiss & Austrian claims
- ★ German spoken
- ★ Home visits arranged

Tel: 0171 435 5351

Fax: 0171 435 8881

PARTNER

in long established English Solicitors (bi-lingual German) would be happy to assist clients with English, German and Austrian problems. Contact

Henry Ebner

Myers Ebner & Deaner
103 Shepherds Bush Road
London W6 7LP
Telephone 0171 602 4631

ALL LEGAL WORK
UNDERTAKEN

AUSTRIAN and GERMAN PENSIONS

PROPERTY RESTITUTION CLAIMS EAST GERMANY- BERLIN

On instructions our office will assist to deal with your applications and pursue the matter with the authorities.

For further information and appointment please contact:

ICS CLAIMS

146-154 Kilburn High Road
London NW6 4JD

Tel: 0171-328 7251 (Ext. 107)

Fax: 0171-624 5002

Reviews

More at home with Irving than Berlin

Judith Paris WEILL AND LENYA New End

Lovers of the sound and atmosphere of Berlin in the Weimar years should go to see *Weill and Lenya* at Hampstead's New End Theatre. The show tells the story of the life and troubled love of the composer Kurt Weill, played in bespectacled intellectual fashion by David McAlister and the actress/singer Lotte Lenya, whose unforgettable voice launched a thousand Weimar cabaret imitations.

Lenya is played by Judith Paris, who also wrote the show. Paris' performance is admirable; her renditions of *Mack the Knife* and the achingly beautiful *Surabaya Johnny* really do evoke something of their originals and her depiction of Lenya performing a savage take-off of Marlene Dietrich, complete with the famous Lola pose from *The Blue Angel*, is marvellous.

The show follows the pair from their first meeting, on a rowing-boat ride to the Grunewald house of the playwright Georg Kaiser, through marriage and the Brecht/Weill successes of the late 1920s, divorce, emigration, remarriage and the building of a new career, at least for Weill, in America.

Significantly, it is Weill's American hits like *Lost in the Stars* and the evergreen *September Song* that steal the show. Perhaps it is easier to exploit the snap and zing of American lyrics, like the *Saga of Jenny* (whose linguistic studies end with her inability to say *no* in twenty-seven languages), than it is to recreate the mood of pre-Hitler jazz-inspired opera.

Perhaps it is simply a question of language. The English translation with which the performers have to work is sometimes woefully limp. The erotic aura of the *Tango Ballad* from the *Threepenny Opera* is prissily neutered when the brothel – *in dem Bordell, wo unser Haushalt war* – becomes *the snug two-by-four where we played house*. And to translate the mesmerising refrain of the *Cannon Song*, *Soldaten wohnen/auf den Kanonen*, as *Let's all go barmy/Live off the army* is itself pretty barmy. But it's still a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

□ Anthony Grenville

Pleasure dome

Travel to the Millennium Dome in Greenwich is best achieved on London underground's newly extended and modernised Jubilee Line. Almost immediately after leaving the splendid new Greenwich station you come to the Dome's entrance. Any intending visitor has, of course, to purchase tickets in advance, most conveniently from newsagents or on the internet.



Having read about the Dome for what seems an age, not to mention the continual blow-by-blow accounts of its design and construction on the television, surprisingly its vast size – reportedly twice that of Wembley Stadium – is not immediately apparent. On entering, a map is provided of the exhibition layout and the content of its themed 'zones', allowing at least an attempt to plan what must be a full day's exploration. Just to obtain one's bearings takes a good hour or two; fortunately, there are a number of very pleasant staff to offer guidance and help to get you into the swing of things.

The *Faith Zone* illustrates religious themes from birth to death as expressed in the beliefs and practices of the world's major religions. Judaism is illustrated with a number of photographs showing a *brit milah*, a *ba'ritzvab* and a marriage ceremony, each with an explanation. No doubt in an idea borrowed from the custom at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, visitors are invited to write their hopes for the future on a piece of paper and place it into a Millennium message wall!

Unavoidable is the much talked about *Body Zone*, the huge humanoid figure through whose internal working body parts one traverses, its main feature being a beating heart. Ecologically friendly games feature in an exhibit called *Living Island* which encourages the recycling of waste and the saving of energy and valuable resources. Other attractions range from play areas to hands-on state-of-the-art computer technology. Unfortunately,

during our visit on the first day the Dome was open to the general public, several of the displays were not working; only a further visit could ensure that every exhibit would be seen. Twice daily visitors are entertained with two shows, one a 40-minute *Blackadder* feature film, to be specially prized by Rowan Atkinson fans, the other a spectacular live acrobatic show with bungee jumping trapeze artists performing to music in the main arena.

There is a large selection of restaurants and opportunities to buy drinks and snacks, though chairs for the weary are not to be found. Anyone having trouble being on their feet for long periods would be advised to take a small fold-up seat. The whole area is wheelchair friendly with electric and manual wheelchairs available and there are plenty of well-situated restrooms.

In setting out to educate the visitor, the Millennium Dome's wide appeal should interest most people of all ages.

□ Andrea Goodmaker

New Jewish Museum

Munich's new Jewish Museum is at Reichenbachstrasse 27 (Rückgebäude). The previous one in the Maximilianstrasse was completely inadequate and the new one comprises four rooms. The present exhibition, named *Beth ba Knesseth-Ort der Zusammenkunft*, is open until 31 May 2000. Opening times are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 2 pm to 6 pm.

It depicts Jewish life in Munich from the erection of the first synagogue in the Westenlederstrasse in 1824 until, by order of Hitler, compulsory demolition of the main synagogue in the Herzog-Max Strasse in 1938, the Kristallnacht conflagration of the Ohel-Jakob synagogue until the final eviction of the remaining Jews to the extermination camps in the East.

There is ample Jewish memorabilia, screening of scenes from the past and solo and choir reproduction of compositions by Emanuel Kirschner, first Cantor of the Munich synagogue.

□ Anthony Goldsmith

BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE
51 Belsize Square, London N.W.3
 Our communal hall is available for
 cultural and social functions.
Tel: 0171-794 3949

The Auschwitz dispute

In 1984, a group of Carmelite nuns took over a building known as 'the old theatre' near the walls of the Auschwitz concentration camp where leaders of the Polish resistance had been murdered as well as one and a half million Jews. By praying for the souls of all the victims the Carmelites seemed to reflect Christian solidarity with Jewish suffering.

At first the convent was accepted by the tiny Polish-Jewish community. The following year, however, the Belgian branch of a Catholic aid agency appealed for funds to repair the convent; this drew hostile reactions from many Jewish organisations. Although activists in Christian-Jewish relations subsequently did their best to defuse the tension, in mid-1989 the situation reached a point aptly described as 'religious war'.

The intervening years had seen a group of cardinals in dialogue at Geneva with representatives of European Jewry. After two meetings, it was agreed that a centre for prayer, information and reconciliation, incorporating a new convent for the Carmelite sisters, should be built some 500 metres from the boundaries of Auschwitz. A deadline for the Carmelites to move was set for February 1989. The Polish Primate, Cardinal Josef Glemp, was not, however, party to the negotiations.

With February 1989 approaching and no solution in sight, the deadline was postponed until July. At the site of the convent, however, 22 February 1989 was marked in a way that was to dominate the Auschwitz controversy long after the sisters had moved. That day was chosen for the erection in the garden of the convent of a large eight-metre cross, originally used for a Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II at Birkenau. The cross was placed at a spot marking the gravel ditch where some 140 Polish resistance fighters had been shot. Dominating the landscape, it proved and has continued to prove, extremely provocative to Jews, even those Polish Jews who had originally tolerated the convent.

During the months before the new deadline a handful of interfaith activists worked hard behind the scenes to achieve a resolution. They included Monseigneur Henryk Muszynski, head of the Commission for Christian-Jewish dialogue in Poland, Sir Sigmund Sternberg in Britain and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum in America. Despite their efforts, however, a

group of seven American Jews led by Rabbi Avi Weiss from Riverdale, New York, arrived at the gates of the convent on 14 July 1989.

Although the demonstration that Friday afternoon was not the violent assault on the Carmelites suggested by some press reports, it was undoubtedly inappropriate. Outraged by the incursion of these strange men in prayer-shawls into the courtyard of the convent, workmen appeared at the windows of the convent, jeered at the Jews and proceeded to drench them with buckets of paint and cement. Once the Jews were outside the convent the workmen punched and kicked them in full view of bystanders including a policeman and a priest.

If Poles were scandalised by the antics of Weiss and his followers, the Jewish world was horrified by reports of the treatment to which they had been subjected and there were counter demonstrations.

Sternberg was now urged to make a direct approach to the Catholic hierarchy in Poland. He had not met Cardinal Macharski, Archbishop of Cracow, and had only a nodding acquaintance with Cardinal Glemp but took up the challenge and exchanged a series of telexes with Macharski. The cardinal, who had signed the Geneva Declaration, backtracked from his earlier commitment to oversee the building of the proposed centre. Worse still, at the end of August, Glemp preached his notorious sermon at Czestochowa in which he gave vent to a series of antisemitic stereotypes.

It was at this point that Muszynski sent a communiqué to the Vatican in favour of proceeding with the Geneva Accords. The communiqué was endorsed by Cardinal Willebrands (of the Commission for Religious relations with Judaism) who announced on 19 September that the Vatican backed the building of the new centre and would offer financial assistance for the project. The announcement was welcomed in many quarters but seemed to pass Cardinal Glemp by. At a press conference in Bristol that day, he was none too conciliatory, dismissing the Geneva Accords as 'wishful thinking'.

Nevertheless Sternberg met Glemp at the Polish Ambassador's residence in London the following evening and succeeded in getting him to sign a letter agreeing to implement the Geneva Declaration. As an inducement, he made a favourable announcement to Clifford

Longley, then Religious Affairs editor of *The Times*.

Once the new convent was finally ready for occupation at the beginning of 1993, however, the nuns were still reluctant to move. With world leaders soon to come to Warsaw to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising on 19 April, this recalcitrance was causing the Church in Poland considerable embarrassment. It was then that the Pope himself intervened in a letter to the Carmelites dated 9 April 1993.

While Vatican spokesmen denied that the letter amounted to an order, the message was clear enough. The nuns took their time in leaving 'the old theatre' but most were eventually resettled in the newly-built centre.

The large cross did not accompany the sisters to the new convent. Negotiations to have it moved started early in 1998 but were countered by so-called 'Defenders of the Cross' who planted more than two hundred crosses around the gravel pit. These were removed in a police action in June 1999. The large cross, however, has been authorised to remain.

□ Emma Klein

50 YEARS AGO

RIGHTS AND DUTIES

At the forthcoming General Elections, most of our readers will for the first time have the right to go to the polls. February 23 thus symbolises the end of a long period during which we were barred from taking part in the political life of our environment... Our admission to this country was soon followed by the outbreak of war with various repercussions on our legal status. Now, thanks to the policy of "full naturalisation" all those pre-war refugees who wished to become British subjects have been naturalised.

□ *AJR Information, February 1950*

 **JACKMAN
SILVERMAN**

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

26 Conduit Street, London W1R 9TA
Telephone: 0171 409 0771 Fax: 0171 493 8017



Letters to the Editor

MISPLACED BLAME

Sir – Dr Steven Livingstone, in his account of his visits to Auschwitz (December issue), asks why the railway lines were not bombed in the summer of 1944 to prevent the deaths of some 400,000 Hungarian Jews. It is difficult to see how this could have been done in view of the logistics involved.

The bulk of the heavy bomber force was based in Britain, thus precluding its use in view of the huge distances involved. Even flights from Italy would have entailed lengthy overflights of enemy territory with consequent losses and the difficulty of finding and destroying railway lines which the Germans could have repaired in a matter of days, if not hours. The Allied authorities understandably considered it more important to eliminate German industrial capacity, thereby bringing the war to a speedy conclusion and saving many lives.

It would have been much more effective had Pope Pius XII, that well known antisemite, unequivocally condemned the appalling Nazi atrocities and not stood by silently, as did the Catholic church, while millions of Jews went to their deaths.

London N10

JC Lee

UK HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Sir – I read Ronald Channing's report with misgivings because: (a) Only three years ago, after France and Canada had issued a commemorative stamp, the Holocaust Survivors' Centre asked the Post Office at my instigation to do the same here. To say that the response was cool would be an understatement. A set on Enid Blyton's books was thought more important and was published instead. (b) The educational aspect must be covered comprehensively. This would include the 1939 White Paper reducing immigration to Palestine to a trickle to placate Arabs, the imprisonment of "illegal" immigrants on Mauritius, the setting aside of the Balfour Declaration at a time of greatest need and the USA quota system. (c) The lack of acknowledgement that persecution did not end on 8 May 1945. The postwar blockade of

Palestine, this time to prevent the remnant from reaching their natural refuge. The failure of de-Nazification which still mocks its victims. The contempt with which slave labourers have been treated by the present government.

Otherwise the exercise will be no different from armistice Day services, full of poetic words, two minutes' silence to be forgotten for another year by most who have, regretfully, no clue about their own past and are not taught it either.

Ipswich, Suffolk

Frank Bright

SIMON WIESENTHAL

Sir – I am in touch with both Graham Morris and Rabbi Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre and also with the Imperial War Museum about a possible exhibition to honour the work and life of Simon Wiesenthal.

To enable the above idea to develop into something more concrete, we are seeking original documentation and also artefacts connected with Wiesenthal. It occurred to us that, through your organisation and its many individuals, it might be possible to borrow relevant items for a short period of time (probably in the year 2001 or 2002).

19 Elmgate Gardens

Dr Stephen I Ankier

Edgware, Middx HA8 9RU

JUSTICE THAT PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING

Sir – According to the news the veil has been lifted on another alleged SS mass murderer and the authorities knew it, and are doing nothing about it. Naturally this created much resentment among survivors who feel bitter about such inertia. I am a 90 year-old survivor, but feel at peace about this inactivity and injustice and for the sake of peace of soul of the other survivors, I dare to disclose my secret despite the risk of being called a traitor.

I believe in a Divine Justice which expresses itself in reincarnation and Karma, a concept where at the end everything will find its balance as Divine Justice, often late in later life or lives, on Earth.

I offer these thoughts for the consider-

ation of survivors who feel bitter about human injustice.

London NW3

Ernst Mitchell

RE-BRANDING AJR INFORMATION

IN FAVOUR

Sir – I like the title *AJR Journal*.

Barnes, SW13

Hella Kauffmann

Sir – I wholly endorse the suggestion that the title be changed. Your excellent publication, to which many of us look forward, is far too interesting to be called *Information*.

Esher, Surrey

Bronia Snow

Sir – I strongly support the name change to the *AJR Journal* and would favour *AJR Review* rather than *AJR Mosaic*.

The high quality of the journal warrants a wider readership and I hope that a change of name will have this effect.

London SW1

Edward Levy

Sir – I like your idea of *AJR Mosaic* as the new name – the fustiness of *Information* has long been uncomfortable.

London N3

Dr Andrew Herzheimer

Sir – I would support a change from *AJR Information*. However *AJR Mosaic* is ugly and ambiguous in meaning. *AJR Review* would be fine, but not very arresting. *AJR Report* might be considered as more punchy and actually closer to contents.

Sutton Coldfield

Prof. John Grenville

Sir – For what it is worth I suggest *AJR Chronicle and Review*.

Elstree, Herts

Eric Newman

Sir – The present format does not do the journal any justice. It is, undoubtedly of interest to a wider readership than just Jewish refugees or their immediate circle. The articles are well written, not least your own and cover a spectrum of knowledge and experience which deserves a wider readership. To this end I would suggest that the format be enlarged to the size of *The Economist* and that its name be changed to *AJR Magazine*.

Lewes, East Sussex

R Simmonds

Sir – As a matter of temperament I am instinctively against all change, particularly when it's apparently not all that urgent. So my automatic reaction is to leave well alone and keep the present title. But I do admit that it no longer states what the journal really is; so if there really is to be a change, then please *AJR Chronicle* or *AJR Record*. Mosaic would need to be explained.

Deddington, Oxon

F Steiner

Sir – My suggestion for a new title: *AJR 2000*.

London NW3

Katia Gould

OPPOSED

Sir – Do not change the name *AJR Information*. It covers everything.

Wendover Court

Gerda R Sainer

London NW2

Sir – I very much favour retaining our traditional title. Information is just what we get every month, not just news. Information includes all the articles about people who have been active in the Association and the editor's and other people's views about what is happening. *AJR Mosaic* sounds artificial and meaningless to me.

Leamington Spa

PE Roland

Sir – I have been reading *AJR Information* for the last 15 years. I do so because it is always stimulating and full of interest. There is nothing wrong with the current title. It exactly conveys what the journal is i.e. informative.

Please do not adopt the title *AJR Mosaic*. A lot of people will think that this is something to do with floor tiling rather than a reference to our ancestor.

To retain the present name would, I think, be an act of piety.

Richmond, Surrey

Maurice Fireman

Sir – I am all for trying to increase the circulation, range of contributions by the younger membership and the repute of our *AJR Information*. I am not convinced that a change of title will achieve this by itself.

A change of title will possibly confuse libraries and archives, unless you retain the word AJR as the first word on the title. The recent plea by Ludwig Glaser for an index would seem to be a priority. Moreover getting current articles of note

recorded in computer indexes widely available over the World Wide Web and conventional abstracting journals should help to give publicity to the publication.

I would personally regret a change from the familiar format, as would libraries, which like to bind or store journals whose size remains constant. An increase in the cost of the subscription, if inevitable with changes in production costs, will hit older pensioners amongst the membership. The present cost is a bargain.

I, as many other of your readers, look forward to the regular arrival of a *familiar friend*.

Aberystwyth

William W Dieneman

Sir – I favour the retention of the familiar and prestigious title *AJR Information*. At the same time, I feel that your journal should do more to justify this title.

London NW3

Ludwig Berlin

Sir – Having been an AJR member longer than I can remember, I would like to add a few words.

Each month my family, friends and I look forward to receiving *AJR Information*.

Somehow I don't think that either the second or the third generation would be as interested, therefore I believe that the name should remain as it is.

Harrow

Ilse Rosenduft

SATIRICAL RESPONSE

Sir – May I respectfully point out that changing the name of the *AJR Information* will not alone attract additional readers, but it will also be necessary to repackage its contents.

Perhaps the following additional items may help: Art: Page 3 girls, pure and simple; Music: the monthly diary of Mrs Beckham; Finance: long term investments in Swiss banks for a happy future; General interest: what an easy life the founders of the AJR had, compared with present day conditions; DIY: how to replace the roof of your house; Health: surf the Internet for exercise.

London NW7

HE Reiner

GENERATION GAP

Sir – As your core readership 60 years older than on arrival is being depleted willy-nilly, the matter of title is surely not of first importance. But there *are* questions that need to be asked:- Does the academic/historical preoccupation with

antisemitism, even when elegantly presented, appeal to the second-generation? Or even to the majority of us *originals*?

Where is the *feel good* factor in our magazine? Believe it or not, the Obituary pages of *The Times* make me feel prouder, more at ease with my history than does *AJR Information*. My sons, too, could be interested in the achievements of their father's generation of refugees.

Conversely, are there not problems other than arthritis and apple strudel which are common to many of us (and therefore to our children) and which bear discussion?

E.g. religious pressures in childhood, kindertransportees who grew to adulthood without benefit of parents, reticence vis-à-vis the next generation, their lack of interest in our history, marriage to non-refugees, etc.

An ageing readership demands a high degree of professionalism and flexibility from editors. Particularly where the publication is sent out to all members and does not have to pass the test of money changing hands.

Edgware, Middx

Ernie Manson

Grand-Aunt

My grand-aunt, Aranka, wears nothing but white cotton. Bent double by the weight of time she never leaves her small room

at the Eisenberg Seniorenheim, where nurses are on hand to attend to her every need. She dreads admission to hospital more than her painful ailments for fear that she will not return.

Her address for many years was Schleissheimer Strasse, Munich 40, the street in which Adolf Hitler had lived some years before. This, since the municipality has not acknowledged her famous predecessor, she does not know.

History rhymes with irony. The German State, once so ruthlessly dedicated to her extinction now seems equally dedicated to keeping her alive.

Eric Svarny

AJR Reports

VOLUNTEERS ENJOY DAY CENTRE BRUNCH PARTY



The AJR gave a brunch party as an annual 'thank you' for its many volunteers, without whom the organisation could not offer the wide range of services that it does. Held at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, West Hampstead, the party catered for more than fifty volunteers, providing them with an assortment of hot and cold buffet dishes, prepared and served to the Centre's usual high standards.

AJR's Chairman, Andrew Kaufman, made a short speech commending the volunteers for all their hard work and time spent in helping and supporting AJR members who, without exception, were extremely appreciative. The occasion provided a good opportunity for volunteers, who might not usually have a chance to meet one another, to come together and meet in a relaxing atmosphere. All of the AJR's 160 volunteers received a special AJR pen as a mark of appreciation for their devoted efforts over the past year.

Birmingham

Dr Henry Cohn gave a talk entitled, 'Postcards over Germany: Refugees evade the censor', which was based on the discovery of a large collection of family postcards, written during the 1930s. As a university reader in history, Dr Cohn has planned in his retirement to use the postcards and details of his family background to conduct genealogical research. This intriguing subject stimulated many questions from the audience.

□ Edgar Glaser

Brighton and Hove

AJR outreach worker Myrna Glass gave a talk to the Sarid group about her three-week enrolment in the Israeli army in 1998, organised by the voluntary organisation, SAR-EL. The

twelve volunteer members of Myrna's group, who wanted to help Israel in a practical way, were either assigned work in a hospital or at an army base. The volunteers worked in the same conditions as the soldiers and, located on the Golan Heights, her group was allocated the useful if uninspiring task of putting together metal reinforcement rods for concrete - a job they did well.

□ Rudi Simmonds

The next meeting of Sarid is on Monday, 21st February at 10.45am at which the food writer, Michael Robinson, will talk about Ashkenazi and Sephardi cooking.

Pinner

Boredom is the bane of the inmate of a modern prison and leads to 'Porridge' behaviour. This was the message of prison chaplain, Keith Simons, who ministers with tact and

circumspection to the special needs of Jewish prisoners. He gave Pinner AJR a fascinating insight into the unique social structure of the society within the walls of these institutions. □ Walter Weg

At the next meeting, 3rd February, 2pm at Pinner Synagogue, Alf Keiles will talk and play records on the Jewish influence on jazz and pop music of the 1930s and 1940s.

On 2nd March, Gerald Hillman will talk about Art Through the Ages.

Surrey

The next meeting is on Wednesday 23rd February at 10.30am at the home of Ernest and Louise Simon in Merstham. Tel: 01737 643 900 □

Third Great Season

AJR LUNCHEON CLUB

on Wednesday 16h February 2000
at 15 Cleve Road, NW6 3RL
11.45 for 12.15pm

Guest speaker: **Ann Kirk**
'I found a family'

Reservations £7.50 for everyone!
from Sylvia, Renée and Susie
Tel: 0171 328 0208

AJR 'Drop in' Advice Centre at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

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

Tuesday	1	February
Wednesday	9	February
Thursday	17	February
Tuesday	22	February
Wednesday	1	March

and every Thursday from
10am to 12 noon at:

**AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal,
London NW3 6AL**

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

New Year Honours

Stephanie Shirley, the first woman president of the British Computer Society, has been created a DBE. She is the founder of a computer consultancy firm which employs women working from home. Dame Shirley came to Britain on a kindertransport at the age of four.

Stephen Smith, co-founder and director of the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottinghamshire, was appointed MBE in recognition of his unique contribution to the study and remembrance of the Holocaust. Hella Pick, author and former diplomatic editor of *The Guardian* received the OBE. Austrian-born Ms Pick came to Britain as a child refugee □

Preacher of the Year

The Times awarded Rabbi Shmuley Boteach the title of, 'Preacher of the Year'. His sermon on the Millennium was thought powerful and provocative.

Newspaper chief in murder plot

Israeli newspaper publisher, Ofer Nimrodi, has been put on trial for the attempted murder of a former associate who turned state's witness in a wire-tapping case. The indictment also details attempts by Nimrodi, one of Israel's richest men, to bribe police officers.

Jews 'dot' logged on

If you are connected to the Internet, try logging on to www.jewish.co.uk for daily Jewish news from the UK and abroad, information on synagogues and Jewish festivals in Britain. It also contains an Israel guide.

SEARCH NOTICES

Hedwig Schwarz, born 13th March 1893 in Golc Jenikov (Czech Republic) is sought by Consul General at Austrian Embassy. Came to England in 1938 with two sons, **Johann**, born 6/2/17 and **Georg Andreas** born 26/2/19. Contact Hella Naumann, Austrian Embassy, 18, Belgrave Mews West, London SW1X 8HU. Tel: 0171 235 3731. Email: embassy@austria.org.uk

Gisela Klauber (née Pollack), last known address: 62 Randolph Avenue, London W9 and **Stella Szamek, (née Pollack)**, last known address: 77 Hamilton Terrace, London NW8, or their heirs are sought in relation to restitution of works of art by Ruth Player, Holocaust Victims' Information and Support Centre. Contact: Ruth Player, 1010 Wien, Seitenstettengasse 4, Vienna. Tel: 0043 1 531 04 - 207. Fax: 0043 1 531 04 - 219 □

... Viewpoint ...

Poles apart

At the turn of the century, political and industrial commentators are happily congratulating us on the continuing strength of Britain's economy from which most sectors of the community appear to be gaining a significant measure of increasing wealth. Would that this state of nirvana was achievable, let alone being enjoyed by everyone in Britain as it crosses the threshold of the third millennium.

At the heart of any lifestyle remains the necessity for housing, its size, amenities and location preferably being related to the number, ages and relationships of those living under one roof. In the past year, house prices have risen far in excess of the general rate of inflation, on average over 13% which helps conceal a rise in London and the Home Counties above 25%! Naturally, this brings a smile to the face of any property owner, now greatly in the majority, unlike the situation at the previous turn of the century when housing for the masses was rented and only those with inherited property or new middle-class incomes held title to their own homes.

Paradoxically, those whose incomes failed to reach the minimum required to obtain an all-essential mortgage have traditionally been reasonably well pro-

vided for in post-war Britain in estates of council housing, though kept well-segregated from the status and comforts of leafy suburbia. In the north-west and north-east in particular, many of these estates - now managed by housing associations - have fallen prey to wanton damage and vandalism, often inflicted by the young children of estate families and become almost uninhabitable.

The closure of the collieries and smoke-stack industries on which so much of the north's industrial base was forged, has created many communities bereft of employment, leaving young adults attracted by the rewards of crime and unmarried mothers with difficult-to-control youngsters whose education and prospects are poor. Many estates, often newly built or refurbished, are battered, broken-into, burnt and boarded up with demolition the inescapable outcome.

Surely, half a century after the introduction of the welfare state, universal education, unemployment benefit, social security and a national health service, the existence of a poverty-stricken underclass is reprehensible and a north-south divide unacceptable to the winners in our property-owning democracy? □ *Ronald Channing*

PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6

Mon., Tues. & Weds. 9.30am-3.30pm. Thurs. 9.30am-6.30pm. Suns. 2pm-6.30pm

Afternoon entertainment programme -

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2000

Tue 1	Rachel Taite, soprano, John Taylor, baritone, accompanied by Charlotte Ellis, piano	Wed 16	LUNCHEON CLUB
Wed 2	THE SING-A-LONGERS	Thurs 17	Sergio Lopez, violin with piano accompaniment
Thurs 3	THE GEOFFREY WHITWORTH DUO	Sun 20	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
Sun 6	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT	Mon 21	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Mon 7	KARD & GAMES KLUB	Tue 22	Suzanne & Sergei Bezkorvany, cello & violin, accompanied by Hermione Goldsmith, piano
Tue 8	Amaryllis Roper, cello, accompanied by Julian Barber, piano	Wed 23	JENNY KOSSEW ENTERTAINS ON ACCORDION
Wed 9	Jo Parton, soprano, accompanied by Lewis Lev, piano	Thurs 24	Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton accompanied by Peter Gellhorn, piano
Thurs 10	Suzanna Marks, soprano & Janet Beale, piano & accordion	Sun 27	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
Sun 11	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT	Mon 28	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Mon 14	KARD & GAMES KLUB	Tue 29	Helen Blake entertains
Tue 15	Amanda Palmer, soprano, accompanied by Marek	Wed 1	Elizabeth Ward, soprano, accompanied by Nick O'Neil, piano
		Thurs 2	Dorothy Sayers entertains

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths

Braunsberg. Herbert Braunsberg, born Hanover 4 May 1916, died peacefully in London on 7 December 1999 at the age of 83. He and his late wife Frances were long-standing supporters of AJR. Whilst never forgetting the horrors of the Holocaust, he worked for a renewal of understanding with present-day Germany.

Casson. Luise Casson 18.07.04 - 10.12.99 will be much missed by daughters Thea Morton and Ruth Hanzlik

Glaser. Else Glaser died peacefully on 8 January after a long and rewarding life. Sadly missed by everyone.

Lowry. Herbert Lowry died on 9 January 2000. Dear husband of Anita Leander for 56 years. Much loved father and father-in-law of Stephen and Mary, Antony (dec'd) and Jill and Clive. Grandad of Sarah, Helen, Ian, Mark and Tom. 20 Beechcroft Gardens, Wembley Park, Middx. HA9 8EP.

Pollard. Walter Pollard died peacefully at home on 30 December 1999. Beloved husband of the late Eva. Deeply mourned by his daughter Anita and his family in Canada and America.

CLASSIFIED

Required by elderly couple in NW2 area. Occasional visits **Cook/Caterer. Box No 1256.**

Miscellaneous Services

Manicure & Pedicure in the comfort of your own home. Telephone 0181 343 0976.

Day Centre

Shirley Lever at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. New clothes for sale, dresses, underwear, cardigans etc. Tuesday 22 February 9.45-11.45am.

Societies

Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners and Ex-Breslauers. Please contact Peter Sinclair 0181 882 1638 for information.

AJR

Tel: 0171-431 6161

AJR SEDER NIGHT SECOND NIGHT SEDER SERVICE

Thursday 20 April
Paul Balint AJR Day Centre
15 Cleve Road, NW6

Please phone: 0171 328 0208
for reservations

£20 per person
Limited space available
for standard wheelchairs
6 o'clock for 6.30pm prompt start

SWITCH ON ELECTRICS

Rewires and all household
electrical work.

PHONE PAUL: 0181-200 3518

ALTERATIONS OF ANY KIND TO LADIES' FASHIONS

I also design and make
children's clothes

West Hampstead area
0171-328 6571

Optician

Dr Howard Solomons BSc FBCO

Dental Surgeon

Dr H Alan Shields

&

Chiropodist

Trevor Goldman SRC

by appointment at

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

Please make appointments with
Sylvia Matus, Tel: 0171 328 0208

ATTRACTIVE SHELTERED FLAT TO LET

For single occupancy. Two rooms,
bathroom, kitchenette, hall, lift.

RESIDENT WARDEN
LEO BAECK HOUSING ASS. LTD
11 Fitzjohn's Ave, NW3 5GY
ENQUIRIES: A Flynn 0181 958 5678

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

FAMILY EVENTS
First 15 words free of charge,
£2.00 per 5 words thereafter.
**CLASSIFIED, SEARCH
NOTICES** - £2.00 per five words.
BOX NUMBERS - £3.00 extra.
DISPLAY ADVERTS
per single column inch
65 mm (3 column page) £12.00
48mm (4 column page) £10.00
COPYDATE 5 weeks prior to
publication

TORRINGTON HOMES

Mrs Pringsheim, S.R.N.
MATRON

For Elderly, Retired and Convalescent

(Licensed by Borough of Barnet)

- ◆ Single and Double Rooms.
- ◆ H/C Basins and CH in all rooms.
- ◆ Gardens, TV and reading rooms.
- ◆ Nurse on duty 24 hours.
- ◆ Long and short term, including trial period if required.

From £300 per week
0181-445 1171 Office hours
0181-455 1335 other times
NORTH FINCHLEY

BELSIZE SQUARE APARTMENTS

24 BELSIZE SQUARE, NW3
Tel: 0171-794 4307 or
0171-435 2557

MODERN SELF-CATERING HOLIDAY
ROOMS, RESIDENT HOUSEKEEPER
MODERATE TERMS
NEAR SWISS COTTAGE STATION

Residential Home Clara Nehab House

(Leo Baeck Housing Association Ltd.)
13-19 Leaside Crescent NW11

All rooms with Shower W.C. and
H/C Basins en-suite
Spacious Garden - Lounge &
Dining Room - Lift
Near Shops and Public Transport
24 Hour Care - Physiotherapy
Long & short Term - Respite Care -
Trial Periods

Enquiries: Josephine Woolf
Otto Schiff Housing Association
The Bishops Avenue N2 0BG
Phone: 0181-209 0022

WHY NOT ADVERTISE IN AJR INFORMATION?

Please telephone
the Advertisement Dept
0171-431 6161

AJR GROUP CONTACTS

Leeds HSFA:	Heinz Skyte 0113 268 5739
West Midlands: (Birmingham)	Edgar Glaser 0121 777 6537
North: (Manchester)	Werner Lachs 0161 773 4091
East Midlands (Nottingham)	Bob Norton 01159 212 494
Pinner: (HA Postal District)	Vera Gellman 0181 866 4833
S. London:	Ken Ambrose 0181 852 0262
Surrey:	Ernest Simon 01737 643 900
Brighton & Hove (Sussex Region)	Fausta Shelton 01273 688 226
Wessex: (Bournemouth)	Ralph Dale 01202 762 270

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FEBRUARY 2000

- Mon 7 **Charles Dreyfus:**
Biblical manuscripts and versions. Club '43.
7.30pm
- Tues 8 **Barbara Einhorn:**
Jewishness, Gender and Political Commitment... in East Germany.
University of Sussex.
5.15pm
- Wed 9 **Dr Hannah Naveh:**
What Eve Knew - Eden Revisited. Institute of Jewish Studies. University College London,
1.00-2.30pm. Free.
- Thur 10 **Friends' Outing:** Taylor-Shechter Genizah Collection, University of Cambridge. 'The Jewish Dickens' programme, The Jewish Museum, Camden. Day trip.
£12.50/£15.
- Sat 12 **Kindertransport** by Diane Samuels. Tower Theatre. £5-8. Until 19th February
- Mon 14 **Dr Klaus Hinrichsen,** art historian: *Highbate, past and present.* Club '43. 7.30pm
- Tue 15 **Leonard Olschner:**
Paul Celan and the Poetics of Homecoming. University of Sussex, 5.15pm
- Wed 16 **Jörg Haider and the rise of anti-Semitism in Austria:** Karl Pfeifer. Wiener Library, 7.30 pm. £2 (Friends free). Book in advance.
- Mon 21 **Dr Colin Berry:** *Francis Galton, Hermann von Helmboltz: National contrasts in universal genius.* Club '43. 7.30pm
- Sun 27 **The Crystal Den,** a play by Marion Baraitser. Part of 'The Jewish Dickens' programme at the Jewish Museum. New End Theatre. 7.30pm. £10/£12.50
- Mon 28 **Dr Joel Berkowitz:**
Yiddish Theatre: Avrom Goldfaden's Place in Modern Yiddish Culture. Institute of Jewish Studies. University College London. 6pm. Free
Dr Jennifer Taylor: *The Press of The Austrian Centre.* Club '43. 7.30

ORGANISATION CONTACTS:

Club '43, Belsize Square Synagogue, Hans Seelig. Tel: 01442 254 360
The Jewish Museum, Camden Town, 129-131 Albert Street, NW1 7NB. Tel: 020 7284 1997
The Institute of Jewish Studies, Gustave Tuck Theatre, University College London, Gower Street, WC1. Or, Malet Place, Room 216, Foster Court, WC1. Tel: 020 7679 3520.

Art Notes

The British Museum has laid down the red carpet for China's 50th anniversary *Gilded Dragons* exhibition. An astonishing 85 percent of China's national treasures are on loan to the Museum until February 20. But those looking for the indigenous oriental touch, may be surprised. The Chinese developed their taste for exquisite gold and silver artefacts largely through the cross-culturalism of trade and the influence of refugee artisans, such as the Sasanian metalworkers fleeing the Arab invasion of their native Iran.

The Han Chinese lived beside Turks, Mongols, Arabs, Persians and Indians along the Silk route, a trading path crossing Central Asia and linking China to the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean worlds. Many *objets d'art* came from this. Apart from the *bijoux* beauty of gold and silver miniatures, used in both liturgical and secular ceremonies, there are gilded and embellished belts of jade, gold and precious stones, denoting male rank and ornamental hairpins and jewellery for wealthy women.

The Chinese obsession with the horse during the Western Han dynasty mirrored their belief in the afterlife which suggested nothing more mystical than some spiritually enhanced bureaucracy. The bronze chariots and horses on display today would deliver them to this dubious Nirvana, while the dragons so fundamental to Chinese cosmology had the more exciting role as fertility symbols.

From the grace of ancient China to the more contemporary elegance of Australian born Hampstead-based **Tom Merrifield's** dance sculptures. A classical dancer who rose to balletic heights at the London Coliseum, Tom one day swapped his points for a pair of callipers and a sketchpad and turned dancers like Alicia Markova, Anthony Dowell, Beryl Grey, Peter Schaufuss, Natalia Makarova, Antoinette Sibley and Wayne Sleep into bronze.

A recent exhibition at Merrifield's Hampstead home, showed the sculptor Puckishly in love with the form of the dancer rather than the character itself. Not for Merrifield the robustness of a Degas, the earthy quality that empowers that longing to soar. Interestingly, the



Dragon, Gilded Bronze, Tang Dynasty (618-906 AD).

rawness so suggestive of the gruelling life of the dancer comes through his sketches more positively than his bronzes.

A sculptor who works far from Hampstead on the bleak and beautiful edge of the Isle of Skye is **Laurence Broderick**. Another great stylist, Broderick is equally in love with form and the romance of stone and onyx and many of the personalities he reveals through his medium are the non-human variety. Playful otters, owls, leaping salmon and furtive turtles take their place beside romantic maidens whose smooth and sensuous bronze or soapstone bodies contrast with the shock of roughly flowing hair which exposes the true nature of the material.

Local artist **Sandra Kingsley** is noted for her delicate pastels and watercolours and her recent exhibition at the *Puzzle Studio* on Finchley Road more than did justice to that reputation. Describing herself as a figurative painter she uses colour and rhythm to capture the lyrical quality of nature. In her latest exhibition, her watercolour *Trees* encapsulated a love of freedom and movement but Kingsley can also show hidden strengths in a more ambitious format, such as her *Marrakesh Market*. Beside her more pastoral studies, Kingsley often demonstrates a sensitivity to the human form, evidenced in her all too rare figurative oil painting, *Young Girl*. □ Gloria Tessler

SB's Column

A unique career. Vienna-born **Alice Schalek** (1874-1956), became prominent as photographer, lecturer and author at a time when few women entered public life. As a war reporter for the *Neue Freie Presse* during WWI she was satirised by Karl Kraus. In 1939 she escaped to Switzerland and later made her home in America. An exhibition about her life and work at

Vienna's Jewish Museum has just ended.

Salzburg. Playwright Rolf Hochhuth shot to fame with *The Representative* which charged Pius XII with laxness and inertia during the war years; another of his plays prompted the resignation of a politician. His latest work *Arbeitslose* (The Unemployed) had its first performance in Salzburg in December.

The thing called love, a book by Carola Stern (Rowohlt Verlag) focuses on **Fritzi Massary** whose cabaret success *Die Sache, die man Liebe nennt* made her the toast of Berlin – which she remained for three decades. Married to the comic genius Max Pallenberg (who, sadly, died in an air crash in 1934), she was famous in her own right as an actress and performer. Massary emigrated to the States, spending her last 30 years in Beverley Hills, where she died in 1996.

Prague and Brno saw the premieres of Czech composer Bohuslav Martinu's operas. Martinu subsequently went into exile to New York, where he continued composing. The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, will be staging his opera *The Greek Passion* in the Spring.

Birthday. Marika Rokk is 85. The popular equestrian movie star of 60 years ago can be seen on TV when German film idols past and present meet and exchange reminiscences □

GERMAN and ENGLISH BOOKS BOUGHT

Antiquarian, secondhand and modern books of quality always wanted.

We're long-standing advertisers here and leading buyers of books from AJR members.

Immediate response to your letter or phone call.

We pay good prices and come to collect.

Please contact:
Robert Hornung MA(Oxon)
2 Mount View, Ealing,
London W5 1PR
Telephone 0181-998 0546
(5pm to 9pm is best)



Danish rescue

On the Danish Island of Zealand, Valloe is situated only one mile from the shores of the Baltic. It is a proper castle with towers, a large courtyard and a moat, but the drawbridge has gone. It and all the land surrounding it for some miles is crown property.

During the war, the administrator of the castle was Aage Krarup, whose family (including the present Mrs Freud) lived in a large house in the castle-grounds.

In April 1940 Germany invaded Denmark and initially treated the Danes with kid gloves. Even the 7200 Danish and immigrant Jews were more or less left in peace. In the summer of 1943, this superficially benevolent attitude changed. The defeat at Stalingrad, the loss of Sicily and the ever-increasing allied bombing campaign proved that Germany was not invincible. This gave heart to the peoples of the occupied countries, including Denmark, and Danish resistance activities increased. Hitler blamed the Jews and gave orders to have them deported. The plan was leaked by the German Attaché FG Dukwitz and almost overnight the Danes launched a rescue operation. The Jews were to be shipped to Sweden by fishing and rowing boats. The shortest distance between the two countries is just

5 km between Danish Helsingoer and Swedish Helsingborg, but the Germans and their henchmen strictly supervised this passage. Further south, the crossing was longer but less likely to be interrupted. Basically, the plan was to collect the Jews in safe houses near the coast and take them to the boats as soon as these became available and the conditions were right. Aage Krarup offered his own home, knowing that it needed only one informer among the castle staff to trigger a visit by the Gestapo with foreseeable consequences. But the staff of Valloe were patriotic and silent to a man.

Altogether over 7000 Jews were rescued in this way in a space of three weeks and the Gestapo managed to seize fewer than 500. These were sent to Theresienstadt but, due to the efforts of the Danish King, not transported any further. If one assumes an average boatload of 25 - 30 persons, then between 200 and 300 crossings were necessary to take the Jews across the Kattegat, averaging more than ten trips every night. The Swedes accepted these refugees hospitably and, in contrast to the Swiss, returned none to Germany. At the end of the war, the returning Danish Jews found their property untouched and Mr Krarup received heart-warming letters from some of them. □ *AW Freud*

'Taking Testimonies Forward': Conference at the British Library

In November last year, the British Library hosted a conference under the title 'Taking Testimonies Forward', at which over a hundred participants discussed the future of the many and widely scattered collections in this country of Oral History interviews with former victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution. The conference was jointly organised by the British Library's National Sound Archive, the Wiener Library, the Holocaust Educational Trust and Shalvata (Jewish Care).

It took the form of four central presentations: from the perspective of the victim (Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, Holocaust survivor and musician), the interviewer (David Wolgroch of Shalvata), the gatherer of testimony (Bill Williams, historian of Manchester Jewry) and the user (Tony Kushner of Southampton University). Each presentation was followed by intensive discussion in smaller groups of the

issues raised. The conference was splendidly organised by the National Sound Archive, under its Curator of Oral History, Dr Robert Perks.

It was most valuable for representatives of the many and varied organisations which hold or use Oral History interviews with Holocaust victims to be assembled together over two days. There was considerable exchange of views and information and the discussion opened up promising avenues for the future. Among the most striking aspects of the conference was the tension inherent in the relationship between academic historians and the witnesses of the Holocaust, which provoked some lively argument. The AJR was represented at the conference and one may hope that it will play its part in organising and supporting similar events in the future. □ *Anthony Grenville*

HEMOCARE SERVICE

The AJR is pleased to offer members the benefit of a Homecare Service scheme

The service is intended to help members remain in their own homes

Financial assistance is available where needed.

For further information please apply to the Social Services team on 0171 431 6161 or write to
**AJR Social Services, 1 Hampstead Gate,
1a Frognal, London NW3 6AL**

Companions of London

Incorporating
Hampstead Home Care

A long established company providing care in your home

- ★ Assistance with personal care
- ★ General household duties
- ★ Respite care
- ★ Medical appointment service

'OUR CARE IS YOUR CARE'
0171 483 0212/0213



SPRING GROVE

214 Finchley Road
London NW3

**London's Most Luxurious
RETIREMENT HOME**

- ★ Entertainment - Activities
- ★ Stress Free Living
- ★ 24 Hour Staffing ★ Excellent Cuisine
- ★ Full En-Suite Facilities

**Call for more information
or a personal tour
0181-446 2117
or 0171-794 4455**

Simon P. Rhodes M.Ch.S.
STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST
Surgeries at:
67 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (opp M&S)
Telephone 0171-624 1576
3 Queens Close (off Green Lane)
Edgware, Middx HA8 7PU
Telephone 0181-905 3264
Visiting chiropody service available

Stent's remembrance of times past

India, 1944-1946 continued

It was in India that I spent what I think were the three most interesting and challenging weeks in my life. A fellow 'fraternity brother' of mine at Bonn, Fritz Benjamin, had by now become the personal dentist to the Maharajah of Kashmir. He invited me to spend my leave with him in Srinagar. The journey alone was an adventure: by train to Rawalpindi and then two hundred miles or so by bus on the only access into Kashmir before air travel. The road was open to motorised vehicles by day and at night to camel caravans, bringing carpets and other merchandise from Afghanistan.

I almost got myself arrested while crossing from the Punjab into Kashmir. The Maharajah was a Hindu; the bulk of his subjects were Muslim; *ergo* neither beef nor pork was allowed to be eaten. My friend Fritz had unwisely asked me to take several tins of corned beef along for his family. On the bus some kind officer warned me that smuggling constituted a criminal offence and advised me to peel off the labels. A suspicious customs official queried the contents. He only believed my fib that I was passionately fond of canned lamb, because a British army officer would never stoop to lying.

The children of the white officers and civil servants in India were spoiled brats, bossing their servants. It was in this debilitating climate that they were mollycoddled. A New Zealand schoolmaster and his wife established a boarding school in Srinagar run on the Spartan lines of Kurt Hahn's Gordonstoun. Part of the compulsory curriculum for the boys was to swim across the big Dal Lake and to climb a local Himalayan peak of some 16,000 feet. My friend Fritz had told the headmaster that I had Alpine experience (a gross exaggeration) and he invited me to take part in the annual climb and take charge of a squad of 10 boys. We set off a day or two later, a party of 30 boys with three teachers, as well as porters and a couple of mules to carry our gear and provender. On day three we reached the end of any vegetation; beyond that there was only snow and scree, shielded by a wall of vividly red rhododendron bushes. We pitched our tents, just as a violent rainstorm descended, washing away our tents and all. The boys

laughed; it was all great fun for them.

At dawn we set off at short intervals, my small party forming the rearguard. By Everest standards it was not a difficult ascent. No ropes, crampons or oxygen masks were needed. By 10 am we stood on the peak. It was a glorious sight, well worth all the huffing and puffing. A brilliant sun on a cloudless sky; before us Nepal to the left, China we imagined in the distant middle, Assam on the right. On the way down, always the more tricky part, one of the boys twisted his ankle. I had to carry him piggyback until we could stop and put him on a groundsheet, four of us each picking up a corner. After reaching our base camp the boy was hoisted atop one of the mules and brought home. I don't think I ever



Capt. RW Stent, left, in Dehli, April 1945

felt as "high" and satisfied before or since.

My messmates in the Compound were a socially mixed bunch: civilian old India and Burma hands. Regular Indian Army officers, British emergency commissioned officers attached to the Indian Army, such as myself and former British NCOs who had been emergency commissioned. We may also have had a few Hindus and Muslims; I can't remember. On the whole we got on well. But there was one British Major who stuck out and was not popular. At whatever time of the day I happened to enter the mess, that man was sitting on a barstool nursing a gin and tonic. I often wondered what his job was but he did not encourage conversation. Suddenly, a few weeks before VE day in Europe, he had disappeared. I was

told that he had been adopted as Labour party candidate for the Aston division of Birmingham in the expected General Election. Army regulations apparently provided that in such cases the candidate had to be repatriated and discharged. The gossiping consensus was that he was not a true socialist and did not expect to win; it was just a typical ruse to get home. His name was Woodrow Wyatt. The rest, as they say, is history.

The military operations in the Far East were never really "my war". As soon as possible after VE day I applied for transfer to Europe. I was turned down because at that moment my section was hard at work helping to prepare the logistics for the planned reconquest of Singapore. It was to be my first, albeit very small, contribution to the war effort. It never came off: Hiroshima and Nagasaki made it unnecessary.

I had to wait for repatriation until it was my turn in the summer of 1946. The King thanked me for my services; I was allowed to continue to call myself Captain, but for the time being was not yet accorded the privilege of a British passport.

□ Ronald Stent

THE BALFOUR DIAMOND JUBILEE TRUST

in conjunction with

AJEX



invites you to celebrate
the publication of

The AJEX Chronicles

by Henry Morris

on

Monday 28th February 2000

6.30pm

at a Central London venue

Call 0171 258 0008

(office hours)

Erratum – January issue

30,000 Jews (not 300,000) managed to secure refuge in Switzerland.

Mancunian memorial

For a country geographically removed from the perpetration of the worst genocide in history, Britain is doing reasonably well in the provision of historical and educational centres dedicated to the Holocaust. The Imperial War Museum's Holocaust wing is due to open later this year; Beth Shalom, in the depths of Nottinghamshire, has welcomed tens of thousands through its doors; Jewish Museums around the country incorporate Holocaust material; and now there is the prospect of a brand new centre in Manchester's erstwhile dockland, the Shoah Centre.

The concept resulted some five years ago from discussions between Manchester's Second Generation Group and the trustees of the Manchester Jewish Museum which led to a working party,

chaired by Bill Williams, Fellow of the Centre for Jewish Studies at Manchester University and a former trustee of the Manchester Jewish Museum.

Following a decision not to extend Manchester's Jewish Museum, a separate committee was formed to establish a Shoah Centre, working in co-operation with Beth Shalom and the Imperial War Museum. A site was identified in the borough of Trafford which it is hoped will be shared with the northern outpost of the Imperial War Museum. Both buildings have been designed by Daniel Libeskind, the architect best known for his Berlin Jewish Museum.

Among other organisations offering the project their support are Trafford Council, Arthur Andersen and Manchester University's Centre for Jewish Studies. A full-time co-ordinator has been appointed. The whole project is estimated to cost £8 - £9 million of which £0.4 mil-

lion has already been raised.

Bill Williams is an advocate of 'history from below' and this technique will inform the Shoah Centre's approach. Drawing heavily on the traditions of a people's history, the emphasis will not be placed on the emergence of the perpetrators or the evolution of their modes of destruction, but rather on the experience of their victims, underpinned by the oral testimony of survivors and refugees, by personal photographs, artefacts and documents drawn from survivor and refugee sources.

"I see it as a national museum and Manchester is a multi-cultural society," says Bill Williams, who is deeply committed to the project. "We hope our project is worthy of all those who went through the Holocaust experience. It is one way of promoting the ideals of humanity and justice."

□ Marion Koebner

Cardinal sins

Cardinal Faulhaber, mentioned in Prof Feuchtwanger's review of *Hitler's Pope* (Dec issue, p41) was a covert racist and antisemite. A German nationalist, he had closely identified Christianity with Germanism already in the 1914 War. After 1918, as Archbishop of Munich, he evinced strongly anti-liberal and anti-democratic sentiments. In a pastoral letter of 1920 he attacked the Weimar constitution and in 1924 he clashed publicly with Konrad Adenauer. Consequently, a large part of the clergy and the Catholic press found themselves on the same side as the *Völkische* (ethno-racists) and other enemies of the fledgling German democracy.

During the early Nazi period, the Priest Alois Wurm, among other clergy, protested about Catholic silence in the face of the persecution of the Jews. Faulhaber rejoined that "the Church had to occupy itself with more important questions than to plead for them". On the conclusion of the Concordat, in July 1933 he wrote to Hitler "that which the old parliament and parties failed to do, your farsighted statesmanship achieved in six months".

While in his fifth advent sermon on 31 December 1933 he had preached, that "the love of one's own race ... should never turn into hate of other people, he had confirmed in the preceding words

that "from the standpoint of the Church, *there was no objection to any truthful race research*". Nor was there any objection to "the aim of keeping the nature (*sic!*) of a people as pure as possible, nor to the notion of a community of blood, to deepen the sense of nationhood."

In the same series of sermons, Faulhaber defended most (!) of the "Old" Testament as divine revelation, but made a distinction between the Jews of biblical times and those of his day: "We must not let our dislike of the (present-day) Jew affect the importance we attach to the books of the "Old" Testament".

Theologically, he decried the Jewish religion in these sermons: "after the crucifixion of our saviour, God handed the Jewish people a bill of divorce."

During the war, Faulhaber had church bells rung whenever a Nazi victory was announced, no matter how large the cost in human lives and suffering and even when the defeated countries were Catholic Poland and France. After Hitler survived the attempt on his life in June 1944, Faulhaber sent him a letter of congratulation and recited a *Te Deum* in thanksgiving for his survival in the Church of our Lady at Munich.

Faulhaber did not protest about the early crimes of the Nazis, nor about Kristallnacht, nor about the deportation and murder of the Jews. In 1943 when Dr Alfons Hildebrand, a German officer, reported to Faulhaber what he had seen

at Minsk, Faulhaber remained silent.

He did protest, however - and successfully - when the Nazis ordered the removal of crosses from classroom walls in Bavarian schools during the war.

□ Dr Herbert Loebel OBE
(author of *Die Juden von Bamberg*)



BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 Belsize Square, NW3 4HX

We offer a traditional style
of religious service with
Cantor, Choir and organ

Further details can be obtained
from the synagogue secretary
Telephone 0171 794 3949

Minister: Rabbi Rodney J Mariner
Cantor: Rev Lawrence H Fine

Regular Services:

Friday evenings at 6.45pm

Saturday mornings at 10am

Religion School: Sundays at 10am to 1pm

Nursery School: 9.15am to 12.15pm

Belsize Under 3's: 9.30am to 11.30am

Space donated by Pafra Limited

NEWSROUND

Holocaust denier sues publisher

David Irving is suing author, Deborah Lipstadt and Penguin for publishing a book describing him as a "Holocaust denier". Irving claims that he never denied the existence of the Holocaust and that the defendants were part of an "organised international endeavour" to destroy his career.

War criminal could face extradition

Konrad Kalejs, 86, who has admitted commanding men in the Nazi death squad Arajs Kommando has avoided British deportation by returning to Australia. The Australian government said it would co-operate fully with Latvia should they wish to bring war crimes prosecution against Kalejs who is suspected of being involved in the murder of over 30,000 people, mainly Jews.

Holland owes Jewish debt

A Dutch government commission has reported that Amsterdam's Stock Exchange owes Dutch Jews many millions of florins in compensation for wealth seized during WWII. It was said that the Exchange "facilitated and legitimised the expropriation of Jewish assets".

New leader for Germany's Jews

Germany's Jewish Community, which represents approximately 90,000 has elected, Paul Spiegel, 62, president of the Central Council of German Jews, following the death of Ignatz Bubis. Spiegel wants to speed the integration of the tens of thousands of Soviet-Jewish immigrants into the Jewish community.

Judge eases woman's plight

A British civil court has intervened for the first time in the divorce proceedings of an orthodox couple. The husband denied his wife a *get* (religious divorce), which the judge ruled would cause hardship and "grave injustice to the wife" and refused the husband's application for a civil divorce.

Jewish traders in Vatican protest

Jewish street traders protested outside St Peter's church in Rome when their licences to sell religious souvenirs in the Vatican precinct were not renewed. The demonstrators, who sell Christian holy images and artefacts, said most religious souvenir sellers in the area were Jewish and had held licences in their families for generations. □ NP

Kinder find a new home within the AJR

On behalf of the AJR, Chairman Andrew Kaufman extends a warm welcome to former RoK members, convinced that the AJR will provide them with an ideal home within which the proud traditions of the Kindertransport movement can be securely maintained.

Having held an immensely successful international reunion in London last year, the executive committee of the Reunion of Kindertransport decided to discontinue the 'RoK' name by the end of 1999, but to provide continuity under the 'Kindertransport' name within the AJR.

Bertha Leverton, founder president and inspiration behind the RoK movement, is retiring from office but intends continuing her association with her many friends on a personal basis. The AJR has been pleased to appoint Bertha a life member in recognition of her twelve years' outstanding work on behalf of the Jewish refugee community and the members of RoK wish to place on record the immense debt owed to Bertha for her contribution to enhancing their lives and welfare.

In order to safeguard the memory of the Kinder's shared experiences – coming to Britain as refugee children without their parents in 1938 and 1939 – and to continue to support their close friendships and unique camaraderie, it has been agreed that all former RoK members will be invited to join the Association of Jewish Refugees. In addition to the many benefits available to all AJR members, 'Kindertransport' will retain its identity as 'a special interest group' within the AJR, publishing its own magazine and maintaining its network of links with Kinder throughout the world. KT-AJR will retain an office and telephone line (0171 431 1821) within the AJR to which enquiries and correspondence should continue to be directed.

Former members of RoK joining the AJR for the first time are offered an introductory membership subscription of £15 for this year, to be paid direct to the AJR. They should complete a membership application form on which to indicate their affiliation to KT-AJR, enabling them to be so identified on the computerised membership records.

Those who already are AJR members will no longer have to pay an additional

subscription for Kindertransport membership. When renewing their AJR membership, as it falls due, they may similarly indicate their wish to affiliate with the Kindertransport special interest group (abbreviated as KT-AJR) on the renewal form.

Bertha Leverton reminds former RoK members "that many of us are now arriving in our more mature years when a little extra help can be much appreciated. The offer of membership from the AJR opens up an opportunity to benefit from a wide range of additional services which include meals-on-wheels, a day centre, a monthly magazine, social services and sheltered accommodation. It is a most generous offer, one which allows the Kinder to maintain our own identity within the AJR and should definitely be taken up".

Bea Green adds, "Having spent a wonderful three years as guests within AJR's offices, from where the London reunion was organised, we are more than happy to join forces as an AJR Special Interest Group and look forward to keeping in touch with each other for many more years to come".

David Jedwab is already planning the first edition of KT-AJR's new magazine which, as well as retaining some familiar features, will include a new format and logo, photographs and be called 'KT – Kindertransport Newsletter'.

□ Ronald Channing

RGs Yiddish ABC

Acheln (from Hebrew *ochel* to eat) cf the German spoonerism *Was nützt der schönste Kachelofen, wenn man kann nichts zum Acheln kofen?*

Baldower (from Hebrew *ba'al* master and *davar* the word) Mainly used in the phrase *ein mieser baldower*, a nasty, or ugly, fellow

Chochem (Hebrew derivation from *habam*, sage) a wise guy. It also occurs in intensive form, e.g. *Oberchochem*

Draikop (from the German words for to turn and head) scatterbrain or conniver

Esroigim nach Sukkes (lit. citrons after the Feast of Tabernacles) Locking the stable door after the horse has bolted

Farshlepteh krenk (German derivation lit. a sickness that hangs on) An endlessly protracted matter, e.g. the suit of Jarndyce v Jarndyce in Dickens' *Bleak House*. □ To be continued