

# AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

## Biased Broadcasting Corporation

Race hatred means demonising the 'other'. This is done by ascribing to 'others' practices and beliefs which are abhorrent to them. Because the rules of Jewish ritual slaughter are designed to eliminate the last trace of blood from food, ritual murder allegations focused on the baking of *matzos* in the blood of murdered gentile children. And because the pig is abhorrent to Jews, the German equivalent of *yid* is *Saujud* (pig-Jew).

In Muslim countries likewise, Jews are currently likened to 'pigs and monkeys' by fundamentalist advocates of  *Jihad*. Parts of the same Islamic world, it should be remembered, were oases of multiculturalism and scientific advances in the Middle Ages.

However, that flowering ended around 1400 AD, and was followed by over half a millennium of stagnation. So when Kilroy-Silk wrote that we (i.e. the West) 'owe the Arabs nothing' he was wrong - but not as totally wrong as made out by the political correctness lobby.

This is not to knock political correctness itself - only to point out that neither of the two bastions of PC in this country, the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) and the BBC, would pass the litmus test of objectivity. Where was the CRE when Tom Dalyell MP described Prime Minister Blair as unduly influenced by a 'Jewish cabal'? (A key member of Dalyell's imaginary cabal, Peter Mandelson MP, had the same genetic Jewish input as David Beckham!)

And what is the BBC doing treating the viewing public to a lavish serialisation of *Alan Clark's Diaries* at the same time as it takes Kilroy-Silk off the air? Alan Clark was the most prominent figure in British public life after Oswald Mosley to express unqualified admiration for Adolf Hitler. He talked racist claptrap about 'preserving the tribal essence', referred

to immigrants as coming from 'Bongo-Bongoland', fantasised about urinating on anonymous pedestrians from the top of a government building in Whitehall, and named his favourite Alsatian 'Eva Braun'. He also wrote a study of the war on the Eastern Front, probably deriving vicarious sadistic thrills from the mayhem and devastation he described.



Suleyman the Magnificent, 1494-1566

A more serious scholar who, in BBC eyes, can do no wrong is Tom Paulin. He is a fixture on *Arts Review* despite calling for the murder of Israeli settlers, dubbing the Israeli army 'the Zionist SS', and declaring that he disapproved of the UN-sanctioned creation of the State of Israel in 1948. One wonders whether as an Ulsterman, and therefore the heir to generations of Protestant settlers in a formerly Catholic-inhabited area, either Paulin himself, or his part-time BBC employers, appreciate the paradox of one settler describing other religiously motivated incomers as deserving of death.

(Whereas Paulin confined his vicarious

hit-list to Israelis who had settled beyond the pre-67 border, Jenny Tonge, MP, has, in effect, declared open season on all Israelis, old or young, civilian or military. In the view of the Lib-Dem ex-front bench spokesperson, each of the five million Jewish inhabitants of Israel constitutes a legitimate target for suicide bombers - whose ranks she herself might have felt constrained to join had she grown up in Gaza.)

So, how have Tom Dalyell, Alan Clark's literary estate and Tom Paulin escaped the attention of the PC watchdogs, and Kilroy-Silk has not? What the last-mentioned said about methods of justice and the status of women in Arab states is no more of an exaggeration than Paulin's description of Israel's conscript army as the Zionist SS. (That epithet was, of course, an unendurable double insult since it was precisely units of the SS who murdered millions of Holocaust victims in the gas chambers and on the killing fields of Eastern Europe.)

As for Kilroy-Silk's assertion that we owe the Arabs nothing, it is, on the face of it, a grotesque exaggeration. However, if rephrased to read 'for the last half-millennium our debt to the Arabs has been nil', it would have borne the stamp of truth.

Admittedly, no sovereign Arab states existed between the 16th and 20th centuries - all were subsumed within the Muslim Ottoman Empire. And while in 1500 this Turkish empire - in particular under the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent - had been so far in advance of the West that it received many Sephardi Jews fleeing Spain, by 1900 it was so far behind the rest of the continent that Turkey was known as the 'sick man of Europe'! In the absence of doubt and of free inquiry there can be no progress - only stagnation.

## A shot in the arm for English

Richard Grunberger

Much has been made of late of the infinite malleability of English, of how the language is constantly enriched by words or phrases drawn from other tongues, or slang, or technology. In this process impersonal forces are at work, but individual writers can also participate, at least marginally.

One such is Howard Jacobson, whose *The Mighty Walzer* has been reviewed in our columns. Jacobson demonstrates that an infusion of Yiddish would sanitise English and draw the sting of nastiness that clings to certain words and phrases. Take the ubiquitous four-letter word, without frequent recourse to which many English speakers would be quite tongue-tied. The Yiddish five-letter equivalent of this word is *shtup* - which to my ears sounds unmusically comical and neither obscene nor threatening. Can anyone imagine a situation where a shout of 'Shtup you!' could lead to fisticuffs? As for the second most widely used Anglo-Saxon four-letter word, Jacobson replaces it with the euphonious *chazzeray* - also a great improvement on the original.

Jacobson is at his most *insouciant* when he uses Yiddish verbs according to English grammatical usage. A girl *shries*, an old lady *kriched*, a grandmother *kvitched* and *klogged*. (I found the last-mentioned particularly evocative because *The Mighty Walzer* is set in Lancashire, the country of clogs. In the novel, of course, *klogging* means lamentation and not a form of folk-dancing.) I also enjoyed some of the hybrid idioms. One character says of himself: 'I'm not *oifgeblozen* with pride' and claims that another character 'is *ongishtoppt* with gelt'.

Ultimately, I got so carried away by Jacobson's indulgence in Yiddish that I shall try to follow his example. I therefore conclude with the admittedly run-of-the-mill exhortation 'Kvell and the world kvells with you, kvetch and you kvetch alone.'

## Archiving Jewish refugees' cultural contribution

Ronald Channing

A specialist team from the Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex, led by Professor Edward Timms, is to undertake a timely three-year project cataloguing and recording the German-Jewish refugee contribution to British cultural life from 1933 to 1950. Funded by a £320,000 grant from the Arts, Humanities and Research Board, the entire 'archive of archives' will be made freely accessible on a website database which will provide details of the locations and contents of collections of letters, diaries, papers and photographs of German-speaking Jewish refugees and their families.

Among refugee ranks will be those who gained distinction in the worlds of music, science, the arts, politics and entertainment, as well as many more who led less publicly exalted lives but possess equally valuable documentation of their experiences during a tumultuous historical period.

The project also aims to illuminate the role played by individual British citizens whose actions saved the lives of thousands of Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution, bearing in mind the British establishment's failure to take any significant action until 1938. Professor Timms further explained: 'It is hoped that the database will not only serve as a valuable research tool and record of the past, but that it will also offer a model for present and future refugee communities wishing to record and preserve their own experiences.'

A similar project recently undertaken by the Centre, funded by the British Academy, catalogued sources related to the Kindertransport. The new project, much wider in scope, will demonstrate the constructive contribution the refugees brought by dint of knowledge, skills, hard work and commitment, to serving in HM forces, supporting the war effort and, with the advent of peacetime, participating in the advancement of Britain's economy, education, science, industry and cultural development.

*Refugee Voices*, a unique project being financed and managed by the AJR and now in the second of its three years, is a collection of structured interviews on videotape to produce an authoritative archive of the experiences and recollections of members of the refugee and survivor community in all parts of the country and all walks of life. To be available in electronic and manuscript formats, *Refugee Voices* will be lodged in leading research and public institutions including the Jewish Museum, the Wiener Library and the University of Sussex.

Those wishing to offer papers for the database please contact Dr Andrea Hammel or Samira Teuteberg at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, Arts B, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton - BN1 9QN Email: [s.teuteberg@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:s.teuteberg@sussex.ac.uk)

Those wishing to gain more information on AJR's *Refugee Voices* project should write to Dr Anthony Grenville at the AJR offices.

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## RG's travel advisory

Richard Grunberger

'When April with his showers sweet/  
The drought of March has pierced  
unto the root', wrote Chaucer in his  
*Canterbury Tales*, 'Then do folk long to  
go on pilgrimage.' Six centuries on,  
spring is still the season when our  
thoughts turn to potential holiday

destinations. Jews, and in particular  
refugees, naturally bring a certain  
emotional baggage to a consideration  
of places to go to, or to avoid. To help  
undecided readers I have drawn up a  
plus-and-minus list (which does not  
claim to be comprehensive):

**Austria** The epithet Waldheimat says it all.

**Belgium** Despite some Flemish collaboration, an above-average number of Jews survived.

**Bulgaria** Despite an exceptional wartime record only a small community stayed on subsequently.

**Croatia** A wartime Nazi puppet; now on a bumpy road to democracy.

**Czech Republic** Prague's synagogues, cemeteries etc are the treasure trove of Europe's Jewish past. Influx of Westerners helps the local community.

**France** A chequered wartime record; current Jewish anxieties owe more to extremists among 5 million Muslims than to the fifth of the electorate who voted for Le Pen.

**Germany** A society that reverted to man's Neanderthal origins with astonishing ease and has made some amends since.

**Greece** A good wartime record, though Salonikans watched the deportations with stony indifference; unremittingly hostile to Israel since.

**Hungary** Despite huge wartime losses Budapest functioned as the centre of Jewish life behind the Iron Curtain, and remains a focal point today.

**Italy** Birthplace of non-toxic Fascism and - earlier - of the ghetto. Jewel of mainland Europe.

**Lithuania** An area of massacres but the capital, Vilnius, was once revered as the Jerusalem of the North.

**Moldova** Another segment of the Jewish heartland with towns like Iasi and Kisinou redolent of Jewish history.

**Poland** The absolute graveyard of Europe's Jews - but there are signs of a small-scale Jewish revival, such as a several-thousand-strong Association of 'Hidden Children'.

**Slovakia** A wartime Nazi satellite that deported its own Jews, but endemic corruption helped some to survive.

**Spain** Long a hostile environment for Jews (although many families claim *Marrano* descent); upholds Western values today.

**Switzerland** Perfection untouched by human hand - or human need.

**Turkey** Laboratory for forging the world's first Westernised Muslim society - and a sublime holiday destination.

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## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

### Home town honours Frank Foley, Britain's Schindler Ronald Channing

Captain Frank Foley was stationed in Berlin as the head of MI6's covert intelligence operations in Germany's capital in the inter-war years until the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939. His cover as Passport Control Officer provided him with official, though non-diplomatic, status and it was in this capacity that he saved many thousands of Jews by enabling them to escape from Germany before the outbreak of war. Some are known to be among the members of the AJR, though many others do not themselves appreciate that it was Foley who provided the all-essential visas with which they and their families obtained entry into Britain, Palestine and other countries in the British Empire.

A hand-carved and inscribed limestone memorial plaque to Foley, who died in 1958, has been unveiled in his home town of Stourbridge in Worcestershire by Rabbi Dame Julia Neuberger in the presence of Foley's niece Patricia Dunstan, senior officials of Dudley Council, be-medalled standard carriers of local branches of the Royal British Legion, Michael Smith, Foley's biographer, and Richard Krakowski and other members of Stourbridge's Frank Foley Study Group. A moving dedication ceremony included the reading of a psalm by Rabbi Leonard Tann, an address by Belsen survivor Paul Oppenheimer, and the reciting by Rabbi Neuberger of *Kaddish*, the Jewish memorial prayer.



PHOTO: RONALD CHANNING

Dame Julia Neuberger (centre) unveiling a specially commissioned plaque in Stourbridge, with an honour guard of the Royal British Legion, to the memory of local hero Major Frank Foley who saved many thousands of persecuted Jews from the Holocaust by issuing them with visas

The fact that Foley was a British spy, said Michael Smith, 'made his efforts on behalf of the Jews even more dangerous.' Having no diplomatic immunity, he was in danger of arrest at any time, yet he went into concentration camps to get Jews out, hid them in his home - among whom was Rabbi Leo Baeck - helped them to obtain forged passports, and ignored the rules to provide them with visas.

For his country Foley was also a brilliant intelligence officer, recruiting one of the best Soviet agents the West ever had, persuading German scientists to hand

over the secrets of Hitler's rocket programme, and playing a key role in the remarkable Double-cross counter-espionage. He was also chosen to debrief Deputy Führer Rudolph Hess following his unanticipated flight to Scotland.

In 1999 the memory of Frank Foley was honoured in perpetuity by Israel at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem as one whose acts placed him among the 'Righteous among the Nations'.

Foley, the Spy Who Saved 10,000 Jews by Michael Smith, was first published in 1999 by Hodder & Stoughton.

### From the Holocaust to Rwanda: lessons learned

#### Vivid narration of a struggle for survival

Ronald Channing

In front of a lecture theatre full of students and lecturers of the Universities of Sussex and Brighton, on Holocaust Memorial Day, Janina Fischler-Martinho recalled how she and her brother escaped the final *Aktion* in the Cracow ghetto. For the fourth year, the event was organised on the Sussex campus, with the support of the AJR, by the

Centre for German-Jewish Studies under its new director Dr Raphael Gross, successor to Professor Edward Timms.

Cracow, with its population of 63,000 Jews, was occupied by the Germans in 1939. Janina was just nine years old, one of three children whose parents earned a very modest income. Herded into a ghetto, in the final expulsion of Jews in 1942 SS loudspeaker cars blared out the promise that they would be 'well off' and families kept together when 'resettled in Eastern Poland'. Janina and her brother melted away from the crowds and, joining a handful of

others, escaped through the sewers.

Last year Janina returned to Cracow for the first time. When attempting to place a rose on the remains of the high ghetto wall, she asked a passer-by for help. 'Not for Jews' came back the reply.

The event included a film on the Rwandan genocide ten years on made by the Aegis Trust, a discussion on post-genocide Rwanda, workshops on Holocaust education through art and film, and a discussion on the mixed reaction of Brighton residents to the imminent re-opening of a hotel as a refugee hostel.

# Jewish refugees in Manchester

## Progress of the first regional research project

Bill Williams

The Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Manchester, generously supported by the AJR, is undertaking the first refugee research programme in Britain to focus on the arrival, reception and settlement of Jewish refugees in a specific region of the country. This includes Manchester, the principal destination of refugees arriving in the north of England, smaller towns in Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire, and even isolated villages.

As many as 6,000 refugees from Central Europe may have spent some time in the Manchester region, even if en route to other destinations in Britain, the USA or the Commonwealth, but at least 4,000 stayed from four years to a lifetime. The research takes in academics who found temporary places at the University of Manchester, industrialists who set up factories in the region, artists and writers, doctors and dentists, and includes those who came as domestic servants, skilled artisans or trainees in everything from hotel management to motor engineering.

A German refugee rabbi like Dr David Feldman, who arrived in the city in 1936, made a substantial contribution to what has since become the major Orthodox *kehillah* in and around Broughton Park. At another extreme lie the Jewish 'politicals' - former members of the communist parties of Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia - whose experiences are even more elusive, since many returned to their homelands after 1945, leaving little evidence behind them.

The research takes in both the ways in which refugees were received and supported by British society and by Anglo-Jewry, and the kinds of institutions they set up for themselves. In Manchester, the chief support for refugees outside the Jewish community came from the Quakers, whose records have been made available to the project and to whom many Jewish refugees owe their survival. Within the Jewish community, the Manchester Jewish Refugee Committee was only one of several organisations which, between them, set up at least ten refugee hostels in Manchester alone.

Among the institutions founded on the initiative of the refugees themselves were

the Free Austria and Free Germany societies and the Manchester International Society, which was given a new lease of life with their arrival. Such organisations provided some refugees with the space to develop identities, relationships and styles of integration beyond the kinds of conformity expected of them.

The local press is being used also to explore the responses of 'the British people' to the refugees who arrived in their midst and to such organisations as TocH, the Rotary Club and the Masons. What, if any, was the interplay between official policies, the national press and 'popular' attitudes?



Bill Williams, director of the University of Manchester's AJR-sponsored research project on the history of the region's Jewish refugee community, with Anne Priest, a research student compiling the project's data base

Of particular interest are the refugees brought over to Britain by such *chalutzic* movements as Youth Aliya and Bachad. Two *kibbutzim* have been identified: one established by Bachad between Manchester and Rochdale, the other in Stalybridge in Lancashire, where *Hashomer Hatzair* established in 1944 what must surely be the only mining *kibbutz* (known as *Kibbutz Hakorim*) in Jewish history. In Stalybridge, Jewish 'Bevin Boys' worked in a local pit to prepare themselves for their futures in *Eretz Israel*.

The research relies heavily on oral testimony, often the only form of evidence now available, and on such autobiographies, personal documents and

photographs as have survived in private hands. Copies of all recordings are being sent to the National Sound Archive in London and, whenever possible, documents are being placed in the safe hands of public archives. There have been some spectacular finds, the most recent being a series of nearly 200 letters sent to his father and sister by a young Austrian who travelled in Britain and the world as a soldier in one of the 'refugee battalions' of the Pioneer Corps.

All of this will hopefully make possible a complete study on two levels. On the one hand, there will be an account 'from above'

of the themes which linked the experiences of refugees and of the institutions created for them or by them. On the other, personal testimonies and documents will open the way to a 'history from below' - a history, that is, of the way in which the events of the 1930s were experienced by the refugees themselves.

*Bill Williams, the project director, is writing a book on the basis of the research with Dr Daniel Langton. Those who wish to add their own experiences, or who possess documents to which they wish to give access to the researchers, are invited to contact them at the Centre for Jewish Studies of the University of Manchester on 0161 275 3614 or [cjs@man.ac.uk](mailto:cjs@man.ac.uk)*

The second and final part of 'Sebastian Flyte, Meet Albert Einstein ...' will appear in the April issue



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right  
to shorten correspondence  
submitted for publication

### VENUE OF HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

Sir - I was dismayed to learn the venue for the Holocaust commemorations had been fixed by the Wiener Library, no less, to be - of all places - at the German Embassy. This was as offensive as it was insensitive to the memory of our murdered loved ones. I understand there was to be a charge to attend, but no amount of persuasion - let alone paying me - would have dragged me along.

Robert Miller  
Leatherhead, Surrey

### ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

Sir - Francis Deutsch in his letter to the *AJR Journal* of January 2004 should check the facts before he writes about Israel and the Palestinians. There has never been in history an independent Palestine - neither when the area was under Arab control back in the seventh-eighth centuries CE, nor under the Ottomans, and of course not under the British. The Palestinians were offered a state twice in the last 60 years. The United Nations voted for a two-state solution in 1947 - a Jewish state and an Arab (Palestinian) state. This was rejected by the Arabs. What could have become a Palestinian state in 1948 was annexed by Jordan and Egypt; Jordan's annexation of the West Bank was recognized only by Britain and Pakistan.

In July 2000 it was Israel under Ehud Barak that handed over to Arafat a Palestinian state on a silver platter. It was again rejected. And it was the Palestinians, by initiating the *intifada*, who broke all agreements (including the Oslo accords) to reach a peaceful solution. It seems that only when the Palestinian leadership becomes far more responsible will a two-state

solution be viable.

As for Peter Zander's comparison of Israeli soldiers and soldiers of Nazi Germany (January 2004 issue), all I can say is that there does not seem to be a limit to Jewish self-hatred.

Professor Dennis Kurzon  
Israel (on sabbatical in London)

Sir - Francis Deutsch's statement (January 2004) that 'The Occupied Territories ... are an occupied sovereign state' begs a series of questions. When did they become a sovereign state? Who recognized it? What was its government and where was it based?

Attempts to set up a Palestinian Arab state since the abandonment of the British Mandate in 1947 have been rejected (usually with violence) by the Palestinian leadership. In 1948 the West Bank was annexed by Jordan and the Gaza Strip was occupied by Egypt. The annexation was recognized only by Britain and Saudi Arabia, and the Jordanian claim was subsequently abandoned. Thus the land has no legal owner but is occupied by Israel. It is *terra incognita*.

Personally, I favour some sort of independent Palestinian entity, but it is hard to see how this can come into being, given its rejection by Arafat at Camp David/Taba. More recently, the Arab terror groups met in Cairo and rejected even a ceasefire that, it was hoped, would lead ultimately to a Palestinian state. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Maher, on a trip to Israel to attempt to restart negotiations, was attacked by Palestinians whilst praying at the al Aqsa Mosque.

Mr Deutsch is right about the problems facing Israel but his historical revisionism betrays a failure

to understand the source of the problem.

Bryan Reuben  
London N3

Sir - Peter Zander describes as moral Professor Wilkie's refusal to employ as an assistant an Israeli because he had done his compulsory National Service. Taking the same view, would Professor Wilkie be justified in excluding all Israeli tax-payers from his department because their taxes fund the Israeli Defence Forces? This resembles Hamas's statement that all Israelis are 'legitimate targets' because they are either serving in the army, or have done so, or, if children, will do so in the future.

Otto Fleming  
Sheffield

### NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES

Sir - George Galloway is not my favourite politician either (January 2004 issue), but you do rather make an art form out of making 'peace lovers' sound like an insult. Would you rather that people were 'peace haters'? Or 'war lovers'? Or perhaps even 'war mongers'? Your remark about Mars gets a bit close, doesn't it?

Still, I have to admit that your controversial style has given the *AJR Journal* most interesting and lively readers' letters pages.

Marc Schatzberger  
York

Sir - I am astounded at the amount of anti-Richard Grunberger letters you print. I believe he is the most incisive analyst of current affairs that I have had the pleasure of reading. He has few peers in describing in a few well-chosen words the history, context and likely prognosis of incidents affecting Jews and Israel in the dangerous times in which we live.

Too many commentators have a short-sighted approach, and do not describe the context. Grunberger at least has taken on board George Santanaya's saying that 'those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.' I would have thought our co-religionists above all

would heed this maxim and not vent their frustrations on the clear mind *par excellence* who tells it 'like it is'. Appeasement has seldom been effective in overcoming one's enemies.

*Ernest David  
London NW11*

Sir - With reference to Dr Peter Foot's letter (February 2004), I would like to assure you that it is *his* great loss and not yours. Your editorials are brilliant, most enjoyable. I never cease to be amazed and impressed by your great knowledge. The magazine is excellent and I look forward to it every month. With gratitude to you and all the staff for giving me so much pleasure.

*Edith Fuller  
London NW4*

#### DYSLEXIC IN ARABIC

Sir - I found the leading article (February 2004 issue), which a friend kindly lent me to read, most interesting as (nearly) always, but was a little puzzled to read that a *hajib* was worn at school. This, I thought, was a government official, rather like a vizier. Could it possibly be a *hijab* that you had in mind?

*Cuno Fischer  
London N2*

*I apologize - as I do for my Hungarian mistranslation on page 3 of the January issue (Schwarz = Nagy) - Ed.*

#### REFUGENGLISH

Sir - Every editor must reserve the right to edit letters for publication. This does not include the right to introduce errors of grammar. I wrote 'lest Mr Levy force me ...'. You changed this to 'forces me'. My version is English, yours refugenglish. Don't do it again.

*Victor Ross  
Kent*

#### RECTIFICATION

Sir - In RG's Interface column (February 2004) you mention the celebration of the first-ever Jewish theatre in Iasi. I just want to let you know that Iasi is not in Bessarabia, which now belongs to the Republic of Moldova, but in the province of Moldova, which is part of Romania.

In addition, I would like to mention that there are also volunteers visiting and helping the residents of the Clara Nehab House, which is run by the Leo Baeck B'nai B'rith lodges (reference to your article on 'Caring for Older People', February 2004 issue).

*Nelly Pesate  
London NW3*

#### IRISH PEOPLE AND JEWS

Sir - A very interesting article (July 2003 issue). As an Irishman I am proud that my people can be spoken of in the same sentence as the Jews, who are probably the most intelligent people the world has ever known.

Just two things need correction. There is no proof whatsoever that De Valera had Collins killed as you claim, though the latter's death did put the former into a more advantageous political position. The other matter concerns Irish grammar. The plural form of *Taoiseach* is *Taoisigh* with no 'English s' at the end of the singular form.

An interesting contrast between the two peoples is, in my view, our (=Irish) unfortunate propensity for hard drinking/alcoholism compared to negligible interest in 'the bottle' on the part of the Jews. Do you have any idea why the Jews, in spite of all the hardships they have had to endure, have never succumbed?

*John Ward  
London*

#### JEWS' TEMPORARY SHELTER

Sir - Richard Grunberger's article on memories of the East End referred to institutions now gone. One, however, still remains and functions - the Jews' Temporary Shelter. No longer in Mansell Street, nor for that matter in its later home in Willesden - now a Hillel House - because of the lack of demand. However, in its current role it makes grants in matters relating to accommodation to individual applicants, but only through agencies, Jewish and non-Jewish, which must act on behalf of the client.

*Bernd Koschland  
Member, JTS Council, London NW4*

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# ART NOTES

Gloria Tessler



Audrey Hepburn Cecil Beaton, 1954 Vogue  
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Courtesy Sotheby's

He was the doyen of court photographers - elegant, handsome, patrician, the master of the condign expression, the perfect pose. Cecil Beaton epitomised the quest for glamour and serendipity in the aftermath of the Second World War. He is described as the most significant British-born photographer of the twentieth century by the **National Portrait Gallery**, and he influenced the development of their own photographic collection. Their new exhibition - **Cecil Beaton: Portraits**, which runs until 31 May - offers an insight into Beaton's work from the 1930s to the 1970s - from Jean Cocteau to Coco Chanel.

What is so wonderful about photography is that it is a perfect trip down memory lane. Here that trip is taken hand in hand by the aristocrat and the film star and, although Beaton was charged by the Ministry of Information to photograph bomb damage to people and buildings during the Second World War, one might say that this is the weakest part of the exhibition. Although in his role of official War Photographer, Beaton went to the Near and Far East, one cannot help feeling how far he has been outstripped by more contemporary photographers in that field who have courageously exposed

the full human cost of war.

But that, you could argue, was neither Beaton's forte nor his moment. His innocent photograph of the 16-year-old Princess Elizabeth as a carefree and pretty young girl before the responsibility of state descended, or his lyrical exultation over screen goddess Marilyn Monroe - 'a canary blond nymph' - is what Beaton is celebrated for. His photograph of her is framed by dense, hand-written notes in which he compares her to a 'bouquet of fireworks - as spectacular as the silver shower of a Vesuvius Fountain - a make-believe siren unsophisticated as a Rhine maiden, innocent as a sleepwalker.' Well, although Beaton was also a writer and a cartoonist, perhaps where Marilyn is concerned his camera is tribute enough!

The Swinging Sixties led to a softening of that rigid style of photography as public statement rather than internal vision. But even here Beaton cannot quite abandon his desire to state the obvious. Thus Twiggy in shimmering tights and yellow velvet mini-frock - more a canary than Monroe I would have said. My own particular idol of that time, the model of supermodels, Jean Shrimpton, is shown in typical insouciant 60s pose: an elegant black dress, arms akimbo, the beehive hairdo and childish fringe. In more experimental mode, Beaton now turns to the multiple pose: he does it with Harold Pinter as a handsome young man, in reference to the several screenplays on which the playwright was working at once. He also does it more successfully with Charlotte Rampling in Chekhov's play *Zinotchka*, showing her looking other-worldly in a gazebo. There is an elusive shot of Mick Jagger, his features etiolated, and a rather tender portrayal of the actress Sylvia Sidney, née Kosow, daughter of Russian-Jewish immigrants, sensuous and smiling between leafy fronds.

If anything, this exhibition is a celebration of the static form. Although eccentrics, geniuses and intellectuals pepper this - the A-list of Beaton's day - the quality of stillness and formality, though dated, actually works as the art of memory.

## RG's INTERFACE

**Two anniversaries** In 1924 the Vilna-based Yiddishist Nahum Shtif began a campaign that led to the setting up of the YIVO Institute of Jewish Research. During the war the Nazis, intent on their own 'research' projects, saved its unique library. Nowadays, the New York-based YIVO sets standards for Jewish scholarship worldwide.

In 1934, a year after the Nazi takeover, the German language weekly *Aufbau* commenced publication in New York, with contributions from the likes of Thomas Mann. Seventy years on, it still appears regularly, though with less distinguished contributors, and in a bilingual format.

**Memorial** Prague now boasts a statue commemorating Franz Kafka, its most famous literary son. The ten-foot-tall bronze sculpture, showing a small man sitting on the shoulders of a headless tall figure, stands on a square close to the Spanish synagogue.

**Shadows of the past** Friedrich Flick, the Ruhr magnate who employed slave labour and was condemned at Nuremberg, left a fortune to his grandson Christian, a patron of contemporary art. The Christian Flick Collection has been offered to Zürich - which rejected it on the grounds of its tainted source.

The 80-year-old eminent German literary critic Walter Jens has been outed as a member of the Nazi Party between 1942 and 1945.

A relief on the medieval Cadolzburg near Nuremberg shows a *Judensau* - a sow surrounded by Jews who suck at its teats and kiss its behind. This erstwhile icon of Nazi propaganda has long prompted protests; now the Bavarian authorities have decided to attach an explanatory panel to it.

**Nobel laureate on the small screen** German TV is transmitting a two-part adaptation of Elias Canetti's novel *Die Blendung* (published in English as *Auto-da-Fé*).

## Hidden children

### HIDDEN FROM THE HOLOCAUST: STORIES OF RESILIENT CHILDREN WHO SURVIVED AND THRIVED

Kerry Bluglass

Foreword by Anthony Clare

*Praeger/Greenwood, Connecticut, Oxford and London, 2003, £32.25*

Hidden children remained in hiding for many years after the end of the war and were the last group of Holocaust survivors to address their suffering publicly. Used to keeping quiet while hidden, they did not speak out until 1991, when they gathered at the first Conference for Hidden Children in New York. The conference gave the impetus to Jane Marks, who wrote a collection of accounts of those who had spent years of their childhood in hiding. However, we still know very little about the coping mechanisms deployed by hidden children. Kerry Bluglass's book is therefore a welcome addition to our knowledge, particularly as she brings her own insights and expertise as a consultant psychiatrist and academic at Birmingham University.

Her keen interest in child development and child protection is transparent throughout. She asserts that children's feelings do matter and that the widely-held belief after the war that the children did not suffer because they were too young to understand, inflicted further injustice on them.

As a fluent French speaker, Dr Bluglass was able to conduct the conversations in both English and French and, thanks to her own and her interviewee Nicole David's, international network, the book is enriched by the inclusion of accounts of 15 children from 4 countries of origin (Poland, Belgium, Holland and France). Some were infants, while the eldest was 12 at the time.

The unfolding human tragedy of what is so sensitively described penetrates particularly through the family photographs of the interviewees: the beautifully reproduced likenesses bear witness to lost childhood.

Dr Bluglass's focus away from pathology challenges the traditional perception that depicted child survivors as inevitably physically and psychologically damaged by adversity in their early life. The collection of remarkable narratives consists of accounts of being in hiding (both 'visibly'

# REVIEWS

as well as 'hidden'), and of the fate of children who 'scrambled to survive independently'. Her humility combined with her ability to listen and hear, help the reader identify with the suffering. The author contains her comment in order not to deflect from the impact of the survivors' own words.

The narratives demonstrate how well, despite their experiences of uprooting, loss and severe deprivation, her interviewees overcame adversity and were able to transform their lives and adapt, to the extent that they now consider themselves well-adjusted and functioning effectively.

In her overview of contemporary research on resilience, Kerry Bluglass follows others in attributing the explanation for her sample to have 'survived well' to mature-coping mechanisms, exemplified through sense of humour, wit, high intelligence and altruism. In terms of current attachment theory, it seems noteworthy that these children were securely attached to a parental figure early in life and that after the disruption from their primary caregivers, most of them were able to re-attach themselves to a new caregiver.

One can only hope that Dr Bluglass will be encouraged to couple the depth of her professional practice with her academic approach by writing further on the subject to inform wider opinion about what is in the child's best interest in more recent traumas and theatres of conflict.

*Gaby Glassman*

## Something of a *potpourri*

### EXPOSURE

Michael Mail

*Simon and Schuster, £15.99*

This powerful novel deals with important themes on several levels. The plot concerns a young woman, Suzy Green, who leaves the cosy claustrophobia of a provincial Jewish community to study photography at a London college. Here she finds a friendship group in the East End who bring about an emotional re-attachment to her Jewish roots. She becomes involved with Eli, the eccentric leader of that community, a part-comic, part-tragic figure who is haunted by his

past. Suzy decides to make him literally the focus of her examination project.

As the novel's main theme is photography, it encompasses many kinds of observation: the relics of the East End's past; Brighton and Leeds; the personalities of Suzy's mother, an embittered divorcee, and of her remarried father; her fellow students; the members of the friendship club; and her newly-acquired non-Jewish boyfriend.

The book is something of a *potpourri*, offering descriptions of Jewish religious rituals, student shenanigans, oarsmanship, and a great many lectures on the subtler points of camera technique by Terry, the college lecturer, which have symbolic overtones. There are some poignant moments, as when Eli drapes himself in a bloody flag bearing the letters 'Auschwitz' to break up a Fascist meeting. All in all, the narrative is very readable, but a less crowded canvas would have enabled the author to explore some of the main relationships, such as the one between Suzy and her non-Jewish boyfriend, in more depth. The ending is surprising and dramatic.

*Martha Blend*

## Ignoble Nobel laureate

### PARTY IM BLITZ

Elias Canetti

*Munich: Carl Hanser Verlag, 2003*

By a remarkable coincidence, the two last Literature Nobel Prize winners for Britain were extremely nasty individuals. TS Eliot consigned his emotionally unstable wife to a nursing home, where he never visited her, and wrote poetry demonising the Jews. The Bulgarian-born German speaker Elias Canetti, who nonetheless 'gained gold' for the UK, treated several women - in addition to his wife - abominably, and wrote prose traducing the English, who had saved his life in the 1930s.

Canetti's mind-boggling ingratitude to his saviours emerges with toe-curling clarity from his posthumously published wartime-and-after memoirs. 'I was present when England's intellectual life decayed' is a statement that takes the reader's breath away - until one realises that what prompted it was the self-absorbed author's festering disappointment over his lack of recognition in this country.

The same ignoble emotion colours his description of Iris Murdoch - his mistress at a time when both of them were

married. Iris appears in these pages showing zombie-like indifference during coitus, and compounds this dereliction by wearing woollen undergarments designed to kill desire stone-dead. Her real offence, of course, was that she enjoyed much more acclaim among the British reading public than her elderly lover (whom John Bailey - Mr Murdoch - memorably described as the 'Hampstead monster').

Canetti's egregious blanket judgment on Britain's cultural life does not, however, exclude the occasional nugget of acute observation of such Anglo culture heroes as TS Eliot. The poet of *The Wasteland* is described as thin-lipped, cold-hearted, prematurely old - 'a guided mummy' and a 'voluptuary of nothingness'.

Good clean, bitchy fun, that! Unfortunately, most of this book is merely bitchy, and gives off the rancid aroma of sour grapes. In other words, more *felo de se* than *auto-da-fé*!

Richard Grunberger

## The most German art form

### GIVE US THE LIGHT!

BBC2

For nineteenth-century German Jewry legal emancipation was one thing - acceptance by the host society quite another. In consequence they strove wholeheartedly to gain social acceptability through cultivating the arts.

Music was considered the most profound, and most profoundly German, art form, and Jews participated in it in every possible way - as patrons, performers, publishers, critics, agents and perceptive listeners. By the middle of the century they had also produced composers of renown, such as Meyerbeer and Mendelssohn.

It was at this juncture that Wagner erected a near-insurmountable roadblock on the path towards German-Jewish symbiosis. He declared Jews to be spiritually barren and incapable of creating genuine art. They could only produce distorted imitations of the work of others; by the same token Meyerbeer's and Mendelssohn's *oeuvre* lacked any real merit or substance.

The essay in which Wagner propounded this 'creativity libel' ended with the ominous one-word prophecy *Untergang* (destruction). The Nazis turned out to be perfect Wagnerites. While implementing the composer's prophecy, they allowed a handful of the millions of victims to save their lives by sheer musical skill. The tiny fragment of cheer one could take away from watching this programme was the survival of the likes of Anita Lasker Wallfisch and Alice Sommer (see February issue). Actually, I exaggerate: the sheer amount of outstanding Jewish musical talent (Barenboim, Zuckerman, etc) on display in the documentary was both a tonic and a conclusive refutation of Wagner!

Richard Grunberger

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## Letter from Israel

Dorothea Shefer-Vanson

I stood by the buffet contemplating the array of salads. Their colours and variety were enough to lead even the most self-restrained hotel guest astray. I knew that it was pointless to resist and that I would pay the price for my weakness. What the heck, you only live once, I told myself, as I plunged the serving spoon into the bowl of finely-chopped vegetables. I was spending a weekend by the Dead Sea with my husband, away from our usual routine, and I intended to get the most out of it.

Someone was humming a happy tune beside me. I turned my head and was scarcely able to conceal my amazement. The middle-aged man helping himself to salads had shiny metal hooks instead of hands. It was a fascinating sight, and I had to make an effort not to stare. He smiled and continued to grip his plate with one hook and wield the serving spoon with the other.

'Do you want any help?', I ventured.

'As you can see, I manage perfectly well', he replied cheerfully. 'If I need assistance, I don't hesitate to ask for it.'

As the weekend wore on, I noticed that several guests were wounded in one way or another. One man was missing one leg, and another had terrible scars on his face. In the heated swimming pool (even at the Dead Sea it was too cold to swim outside) the man with no hands removed his hooks, apparently unaware of the effect caused by his stumps. After a while I got used to that too. At lunch he used his hooks to bring two glasses of tomato juice to the table where his wife was sitting.

My weekend away had coincided with a vacation provided by the Ministry of Defence for wounded army veterans. To my surprise, by the end of our stay I was beginning to take the situation of these terribly mutilated people as much for granted as they seemed to do.

I think the first thing that struck me about Francis Steiner was his tendency to pause for more than the obligatory moment or two before replying to a question - and then delivering, with utmost precision, a response laced with more than a little humour. Were it not for this same precision in giving directions, I might well have had difficulty in finding his rural retreat from the motorway: he seemed perplexed at the thought that I - who try to factor extra time into a long journey so I can safely lose my way at the very least twice - could conceivably have gone astray with *his* directions.

The commercially unspoilt village of Deddington lies perched as it were strategically on the borders of four counties: Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire - the Banbury basin or, as local wags have it, 'Banburyshire'. From the conservatory of Francis's house, where we sat and chatted so comfortably, you can see literally miles over the beautiful, criss-crossed countryside all around. I wasn't the least bit surprised to learn that Deddington Castle played its part in the civil wars of the twelfth century.

Francis Steiner was born in Vienna in 1922. His father was a high court judge; his mother, one of the first women in Austria to obtain a university education, was an outstanding linguist, from whom, Francis assumes, he inherited his own agility in languages. He was brought up in a largely non-Jewish milieu and can trace his family's lineage back through a couple of hundred years of intermarriage. He sees himself as a 'cradle Catholic' - unaware of his Jewish origins until he was eight years old. The *Gymnasium* he went to was run by a Benedictine order.

Francis's sole recollection of that fateful day in December 1938 when he last saw Vienna is trying to catch a glimpse of his parents as the train sped away and calling out of the window 'Ich komme wieder'. His parents were deported close to the end of the war and are presumed to have died en route to the camps.

# PROFILE

Howard Spier

## Francis Steiner What price identity?



Francis Steiner at the investiture of the Insignia of Honour in Gold of the Austrian Republic

Once in England, Francis stayed a short while at the Pakefield Hall Holiday Camp near Lowestoft. When the camp was evacuated, the small minority of 'Nicht-Arier' of which he was a part was sent to a boarding house in Felixstowe. After two months there he was taken in by a monastic boarding school in Belmont (near Hereford) run by the same Benedictine order as had run his Viennese school. Having left Belmont, he was interned in the Isle of Man for 18 months. On his release, he obtained an external degree in economics at the University of London. Five careers ensued, each of them unplanned - Francis ticks them off like seconds on his wristwatch - in transport, the civil service, the oil industry, stockbroking, and - accompanying all these - journalism.

Francis retained his friends in Austria. He had had few Jewish friends in Vienna and, over here, virtually no contact with Anglo-Jewry. He kept in touch with just

one fellow Kind. He long regarded himself as an Austrian in exile. But today, after 60 years 'among the Gentiles', he is more conscious of his Jewish background than ever before. Writing in 1991, he saw himself as 'an odd man out among the Kinder, among my neighbours, and perhaps even in Vienna. What price identity?' In sharp contrast, his wife Rosemary, who died at the age of 60 in 1990, was from an old-established farming background: even his own intermarried Viennese family could not compete with his in-laws, who farmed - not as landed gentry but as tenants of an Oxford college - in the same Warwickshire village for some 300 years.

Back in 1955 Francis began working part-time as a correspondent for Kathpress, a Catholic news agency based in Vienna, broadcasting from time to time on the German section of Radio Vatican. Now he works part-time for Kathpress: communications-wise, the fax machine and, increasingly, email are his salvation.

Last year Francis stepped down as chairman of the Parliamentary and Public Affairs Committee of the Catholic Union of Great Britain, but he retains his position of honorary treasurer of the Human Rights Society and the anti-euthanasia campaign. He is also a member of the editorial board of the ten-editions-a-year *Deddington News*: 'Middle-England' Deddington is by no means a retirement community, he points out.

'It's only four years ago since I had to give up my motor bike and riding a horse', he says, adding impishly: 'I didn't ride them at the same time!' In October 2000 he was awarded the Austrian Republic's Insignia of Honour in Gold for his contribution to relations between Austria and Great Britain.

Francis has 'never, Heaven knows, masqueraded as an Englishman ... but I have never been made to feel an outsider', he wrote in the *AJR Information* ten years ago. 'I still feel in many ways an unrepentant *Mittel-European*.'

# INSIDE the AJR

## Successful year for Leeds HSFA

At our AGM, attended by some 50 people, we concluded we had had a very busy and successful year but, unusually, half the management team were standing down: Vice-chair Rudi Leavor, Treasurer Heinz Skyte, Secretary John Chillag and committee members Ruth Rogoff and Arek Hersh. Chair Trude Silman thanked them for their hard work and each of them was presented with an inscribed pen and a certificate to commemorate their term in office. The new Vice-chair, Treasurer and Secretary are, respectively, Michael Barrie, Robin Gilmore and Martin Kapel. *Trude Silman*

**Next meeting: Sunday 28 March: Jeremy Mark Green, Honorary Consul, Federal Republic of Germany. Title to be announced**

## Edinburgh discussion on Jewish artists

Sixteen of us, including a contingent from Dundee, met at the home of Vivian Anderson and her husband. Works by Chagall, Soutine, Modigliani, Koss and Auerbach were on display, and works by artists less easily recognisable as Jews such as Pissarro and 'Scottie' Wilson were animatedly discussed. The meeting was preceded by a sumptuous high tea amid bookshelves containing a generous selection of topical books. *Judy Gilbert*

## Essex: 'from internment to AJR'

AJR Life President Ludwig Spiro gave us a spirited account of the time when he was interned on the Isle of Man. In the initial confusion of the war thousands of Continentals had been horded together, Jews and Nazis alike, to be interned in various camps. It took the government several weeks to separate friends from foes. In the meantime, the Jewish refugees organised their own cultural events, concerts, lectures, and tuition of the young. The internment brought the Jews together and led to the foundation of the AJR. *Julie Franks*

**Next meeting: Tuesday 9 March, 11.00 am. Richard Grunberger: 'Can Immigrants Be British?'**

## Oxford meeting in pub

For all number of reasons, not least the heavy

snowfall, our group's second meeting consisted of two of us, gossiping all morning before having lunch in the pub by the local bus stop, so that he could return to Oxford in time for his evening job. At any rate, a change from the usual ... *Francis Steiner*



**South London group at Memorial Tree in Imperial War Museum garden**

## South London service

A short service was held on Holocaust Memorial Day at the Memorial Tree planted two years ago by Southwark Council in the Imperial War Museum garden. The tree is a marvellous gesture by the Borough of Southwark and much appreciated by myself, who came over in 1939 from Frankfurt at the age of eight. *Herbert Wolff*

## Welfare Board secretary speaks to Brighton & Hove Sarid

Joy Markham, the secretary of the Jewish Welfare Board, gave us a most interesting account of its activities. The Board, run entirely by volunteers, provides ongoing subsidies and lump sums for emergencies, as well as running a housing association offering sheltered accommodation. *Fausta Shelton*

**Next meeting: Monday 15 March, 10.45 am: Walter Woyda, 'The Musical Milk and Honey'**

## Cambridge members giving talks and recitals

Seventeen of us met at Ruth Clapham's home, where we enjoyed delicious refreshments and a lunch provided by the hostess. We noted with great interest that three of those present - Lotte Kramer, Ilse Mann and Eva Clarke - were due to give special talks and recitals in their local communities on the impending Holocaust Memorial Day. *Keith Lawson*

## Ilford: fascinating lecture on Leitz family

Our speaker, Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith, had

clearly done a great deal of research into the Leitz family, which was obviously a subject close to his heart. He had some great slides to show us and it was a fascinating meeting. *Meta Roseneil*

**Next meeting: Wednesday 17 March, 10.30 am: AJR Life President Ludwig Spiro, 'Making the Most of Internment on the Isle of Man'**

## Pinner: the unique Schumann voice

Joy Puritz gave us a fascinating account of the life of her grandmother Elisabeth Schumann, who at the age of four first sang in public on a table top and by the age of eighteen had become a popular singer with the Vienna Opera. Joy also played for us recordings of the unique Schumann voice. Some records were for sale, as was a biography written by the singer's son and translated by Joy. *Walter Weg*

**Next meeting: Thursday 11 March, 2 pm: Otto Deutsch: 'The Coffee Houses of Vienna'**

## North London: 'Not just coffee and cakes'

Our guest speaker, Otto Deutsch, Chairman of the Essex group, was illuminating, to say the least, on the subject 'Vienna Coffee Houses'. It seems that in his early pre-Hitler days, they offered not only coffee and cakes but also a social infrastructure for meeting friends on a Saturday afternoon to those not wealthy enough to own or rent large apartments. *Herbert Haberberg*

**Next meeting: Thursday 25 March, 10.30 am: Walter Woyda: 'The Rothschilds - the Musical'**

## Next meetings

**East Midlands (Nottingham): Wednesday 3 March. Details Bob Norton**

**Norfolk (Norwich): Tuesday 23 March. Details Myrna Glass**

**South West Midlands (Worcester area): Thursday 25 March. To be confirmed**

**Weald of Kent: Wednesday 24 March. Outing. Details Jane Dickson**

## Victoriana

Retired businessman Maurice Collins drew on his enthusiasm for all things Victorian to inform and interact with his audience of KT-AJR members at a lunch meeting at the AJR Day Centre. He produced a range of Victorian artefacts, from snuff boxes to fire bellows, and a device for rolling corks so that they fitted back into the bottle!

*Hermann Hirschberger*

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Andrea Goodmaker 020 8385 3070

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**Wednesday 17 March 2004**  
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**KT-AJR Kindertransport special interest group**

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	Wed 3	Ronnie Goldberg on Guitar
	Thur 4	Stephen Baron on Piano
	Sun 7	CLOSED
	Mon 8	PURIM - Chinese Style Lunch Kards & Games Klub
	Tue 9	Yakov Paul
	Wed 10	Michael Heaton
	Thur 11	Mike Marandi
	Sun 14	CLOSED
	Mon 15	Kards & Games Klub
	Tue 16	Nicola Smedley
	Wed 17	LUNCHEON CLUB Speaker: Diane Kenwood Editor of M & S Magazine
	Thur 18	Jack Davidoff
	Sun 21	DAY CENTRE OPEN
	Mon 22	Kards & Games Klub
	Tue 23	Paul Coleman
	Wed 24	Rita & Jack Davis
	Thur 25	Katinka Seiner
	Sun 28	CLOSED
	Mon 29	Kards & Games Klub
	Tue 30	Robert Lowe
	Wed 31	Margaret Opdahl

Editorials and articles published, and opinions expressed in, *AJR Journal* are not necessarily those of the Association of Jewish Refugees and should not be regarded as such.

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Birth

The AJR extends its congratulations to Bea and Malcolm Miller on the occasion of the birth of their second son Benjamin Toby.

## Deaths

**Le Fevre. Tony Le Fevre**, née Meyer, born 1907 in Cologne, died unexpectedly on 26 November 2003 at home in London. She had a welcoming heart and touched many in her life. She loved life and was truly an inspiration to others. She will be dearly remembered by her sons Alan and David, grandson Richard, many relatives, and by those who knew her.

**Lustig. Eva Lustig** died in London on 5 February 2004, aged 99.

**Stevens. Edith Stevens**, née Reichner, born 26.06.17, formerly of Gloggnitz, Lower Austria and Vienna, died peacefully in hospital in September 2003. She is missed terribly by her husband Eric, her daughter Erica, son-in-law André and her grandchildren Emily and David. She will be remembered with affection by all who knew her.

## In memoriam

Martin and Lotte Reichenbach and the 281 Jews of Dresden who were deported from Hellenberg camp and murdered in Auschwitz that very night, 3/4 March 1943.

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## Day Centre

**Shirley Lever at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre.** New Clothes for sale, dresses, underwear, cardigans, etc. **Thursday 18 March 9.45-11.45 am.**

**Barbara Isaacs will be at the Day Centre Thursday 25 March from 10.00 - 12.00 hours.** She will be selling Marks & Spencer gifts, toiletries, costume jewellery, scarves, gloves and vases.

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## Search Notices

**Professor Artur Immanuel Loewental**, b. Vienna 1879, died Wellingore, near Lincoln, 1964. This Austrian sculptor and medallist moved to Berlin before escaping to England in 1934. Lived first at 25 Elm Street London; around 1942 moved to Lincoln. Information please to John Turner, 11 Merleswen, Dunholme, Lincoln LN2 3SN tel 01673 860801.

**Werner Buckdahl** from Wiesbaden and his friend, my father **Otto Hess**, came to England as refugees in 1939. My father joined the Pioneer Corps then 3 Troop 10 Commando before being attached to SOE or SIS. In September 1944 both were dropped into Yugoslavia to join Tito's Partisans. My father was captured by the Gestapo and shot - date given for his death: 1.10.44. Information on **Otto Hess** please contact Sylvia Skinner at Johnskinner6@aol.com

**Rudi (Rudolf) Friedlanski**, Bummie, Robsie, my sister Bernie and I (then Spier) met in Dovercourt in January 1939. Bummie, whom I met for the first time in 65 years at the last KT meeting at the West Hampstead Day Centre, told me Robse had died but Rudi was still about and could be in Manchester area. Information on **Rudi** please to Henny Rednall tel 0121 373 5603.

**Emil Stiasny** (Stiahsny?), d.o.b. 21.12.1881, migrated first to Shanghai and from there to London with his wife **Josefine Stiasny**, d.o.b. 13 or 23.12.1891. In 1968 Josefine lived at 113 Park Avenue North, London NW10. The Israelische Kultusgemeinde in Vienna is searching for their heirs. Information please to Heidemarie Blazej, Social Attaché, Austrian Embassy, London, tel 020 7235 3731.

## Arts and Events Diary - March

**To 2 May 2004 'Continental Britons: Hans Gál and Egon Wellesz'**. An exhibition at the Jewish Museum of Vienna tel +43/1/535 04 31. Between the wars these composers were among the most prominent names in the German-speaking music world.

**To 18 March 'German Jews at the Turn of the Century'**. New course at London Jewish Cultural Centre (LJCC). Mondays 1.30-3.30 pm

**To 18 March 'Britain and America's Gain: The Cultural Impact of Hitler's Refugees'**. LJCC. Thursdays 10.00-12 pm

**To 18 March 'Eugen Spiro (1874-1972): A Retrospective'**. LJCC in association with German Embassy

**Mon 1 Dr Gwen Williams**, 'The Nineteenth-Century English Historical Novel' (cont.). Club 43

**Tues 2 'Expressing the Inexpressible'**. By Aharon Appelfeld. Jewish Book Week. The role of fiction in shaping our image of the Holocaust. 8.30 pm

**Tues 2 Book launch: Stuart E. Eizenstat: *Imperfect Justice***. Jewish Book Week. 6.15 pm

**Tues 2 'From Vienna to Broadway'**. Lecture by Mel Cooper. Musical and cultural influences of the European operetta tradition on the American musical theatre. LJCC. 7.30 pm

**Wed 3 Daniel Boyarin, 'Border Lines: A History of Jewish-Christian Relations'**. Seminar in association with Jewish Book Week. Institute of Jewish Studies. 6.00 pm. Chadwick Lecture Theatre, Gower Street, London WC1 tel 020 7679 3520

**Thur 4 Book launch: *Kafka's Last Love* by Kathi Diamant**. LJCC. 7.30 pm

**Mon 8 Jens Brüning**, "Käsebier erobert den Kurfürstendamm" von Gabriele Tergit. Ein Berliner Jahrhundertroman in Neuauflage' (in German). Club 43

**Tues 9 Cilly Kugelman (Jewish Museum of Berlin)**, 'Like a Bridge over Troubled Water: The Jewish Museum of Berlin between Traditional and Commercial Challenges'. Wiener Library. 7 pm

**Wed 10 Dr Robert Knight, 'Austria and the Legacy of National Socialism: Some Reflections on the Austrian Historical Commission'**. Institute of Jewish Studies. Reception 6.00 pm Haldane Room. Lecture 6.30 pm Gustave Tuck Theatre, Gower Street London WC1 tel 020 7679 3520

**Mon 15 Emma Klein**, 'Lost Jews: An Exploration of Jewish Identity'. Club 43

**Tues 16 European Voices series. An evening with author Erich Hackl**. Austrian Cultural Forum series. 28 Rutland Gate, London SW7. LJCC. 7.00 pm

**Wed 17 Professor Moshe Herr, 'The Wissenschaft des Judentums: The Early History and Development of Jewish Studies in the 19th Century'**. Reception 6.00 pm Haldane Room, lecture 6.30 pm Gustave Tuck Theatre

**Mon 22 Ruth Heseldine**, 'The Gypsy and the Germans: Django Reinhardt and Swing under the Nazis'. Club 43

**Tues 23 Michael Haas talks on European refugee musicians in Britain**. LJCC and JMI. 7.30 pm

**Mon 29 Ernst Flesch MA**, 'The Wilds of Southern China (with slides)'. Club 43

### ORGANISATION CONTACTS

**Club 43** Belsize Square Synagogue. Meetings 7.45 pm. Contact Hans Seelig tel 01442 254360

**Jewish Book Week** Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1 tel 0870 060 1798

**London Jewish Cultural Centre** King's College, Kidderpore Avenue, London NW3 tel 020 7431 0345

**Wiener Library** 4 Devonshire Street, London W1 tel 020 7636 7247

## Central Office for Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

### East Germany property list

The deadline to apply for properties in the former East Germany - including East Berlin - expires on **31 March 2004**. As well as the original owners, familial and testamentary heirs of the persecutee are entitled to file applications.

In the wake of German unification in 1990, the Jewish Claims Conference (JCC) filed a blanket claim for properties that were once owned by Holocaust victims. Upon expiry, in 1992, of the filing period for claims under the national German restitution law, the JCC created the Goodwill Fund, through which properties are returned to their rightful owners with 20 per cent of the value retained by the JCC to fund a range of social and welfare programmes.

Once the deadline passes, unclaimed properties will cede to the Claims Conference.

To assist potential claimants, a list of more than 59,000 names of the original owners has been posted on the Claims Conference website at [www.claimscon.org/goodwill/goodwill\\_main.asp](http://www.claimscon.org/goodwill/goodwill_main.asp)

The website also contains information about the claims procedure as well as a link to download the necessary application forms.

For further information and details of how to register an application, please contact: The Successor Organisation, Sophienstrasse 26, 60487 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The telephone number is 0049 69 97 07 08 0 and the fax is 0049 69 97 07 08 11.

### Further help

Written enquiries should be sent to Central Office for Holocaust Claims (UK), Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4RL, by fax to 020 8385 3075, or by email to [michael@ajr.org.uk](mailto:michael@ajr.org.uk) Assistance can be provided strictly by appointment at the Holocaust Survivors Centre in Hendon, north London. For an appointment, please ring 020 8385 3074.

## Fleeing the Holocaust: From Poland to Japan via Stalin's Russia

Howard Spier

Why did Japan help Jews fleeing Nazi occupation? Why did Stalin allow Polish Jewish refugees to travel through the Soviet Union on their way to Japan? These were among a number of intriguing questions which arose in a screening of a film about Dr Zorach Warhaftig (1906-2002), the man who was behind the extraordinary rescue of some 7,000 Jews from Nazi-occupied Poland to Japan and Shanghai. The moving one-hour film, shown under the auspices of the Jewish Genealogical Society, was presented by Dr Pamela Shatzkes, author of the recent book *Holocaust and Rescue: Impotent or Indifferent? Anglo-Jewry 1938-1945*.

The film describes the extraordinary escape of thousands of Polish Jewish refugees, including the entire Mir Yeshiva, from Soviet-occupied Lithuania in 1940-41, using the so-called Dutch 'Curaçao visas' which enabled them to leave for Japan. During the year prior to Hitler's invasion of the USSR in June 1941, Warhaftig found, in

Kovno, Lithuania, 17,000 to 18,000 Polish Jewish refugees. As head of the Palestine Committee for Polish Refugees, he tried every way to get them out. He came up with a plan, which he brought to Sempo Sugihara, the Japanese consul-general in Kovno: give the Jewish refugees transit visas to go to the Dutch-controlled island of Curaçao in the Caribbean, where no entry permit is necessary. Russia, in turn, would grant trans-Russia transit visas to those holding the Curaçao visas. Warhaftig's scheme worked: Sugihara saved several thousand Jewish refugees. In 1984 he was named a 'Righteous Gentile' by Yad Vashem.

We will most likely never know for certain the motives of the Japanese authorities and Stalin. In the case of Japan, it is possibly easier to speculate: they were under no obligation to please their Nazi allies and may have had an inflated impression of the Jews' international contacts and commercial skills. As for Stalin's motivation, this remains a complete puzzle to historians.

## 70 Years a Brit

Tony Grenville

Eighty people gathered in a West Hampstead restaurant to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the day in 1934 when Carl Fleisch, insurance broker and writer, arrived in this country as a refugee from Nazi Germany. An AJR stalwart, Carl was elected onto the Association's board in 1964 and was also a member of the committee which organised the AJR's Thank-You Britain Fund that year. There were speeches by Carl's son Michael, himself a testimony to the professional success of the second

generation, and by Ludwig Spiro, our much-loved President.

It was moving to see a restaurant in the refugee heartland around the Finchley Road full once again of former refugees, their friends and their children. Guests included actor Andrew Sachs and Sir Ken Adam, who designed such films as *Dr Strangelove* and *Goldfinger*. The AJR adds its congratulations to Carl Fleisch on his 70 years in Britain - for his insights into being a refugee-turned-Brit, see his book *Where Do You Come From?*

## Newsround

### Historian of Hitler

Lord (Alan) Bullock has died aged 89. He was the author of the first definitive history of Germany's Führer, *Hitler: A Study in Tyranny*. Published in 1952, it became the standard work on the subject.

### Britain's Holocaust doubters

A poll published by the *Jewish Chronicle* reported 15 per cent of the respondents as believing that the scale of the Holocaust had been exaggerated. Among 18-to-24-year-olds polled, the number questioning the Holocaust rose to 19 per cent.

### French MPs ban religious symbols from state schools

French MPs have voted by a massive majority to ban Islamic headscarves and all other overt religious symbols from state schools. The wearing of Jewish skullcaps, large Christian crosses and, probably, Sikh turbans will also be banned.

### Berlin memorial site defaced

Pro-extremist posters were pasted around the construction site of Germany's Holocaust memorial near the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. Calling it 'an atonement park', the posters promoted membership of the extremist National Democratic Party (NPD).

### Hungarian Holocaust museum

Hungary's first Holocaust museum is to open in Budapest later this year at a ceremony to be attended by Israel President Moshe Katsav, reports the *Jewish Chronicle*. The opening is to coincide with Hungary's annual Holocaust Memorial Day.

### Everything like a Dame

Rabbi Julia Neuberger, daughter of the late Walter and Alice Schwarb and recently Director of the medical research charity the Kings Fund, was made a Dame in the New Year's honours list.

### Sternberg's warning

At the world economic forum in Davos, Switzerland, Sir Sigmund Sternberg, founder of the Three Faiths Forum, warned of the dangers of increasing European antisemitism. The last year alone, he said, had seen casualties from the bombing of synagogues in Istanbul and arson attacks in France.