

AJR INFORMATION

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£1 (To non-members)

Ronald Stent

A REAL SCARLET PIMPERNEL

The Life of Wilfrid Israel

On June 1 1943 Imperial Airways Flight 777 left Lisbon homeward bound for London. Two of its passengers had met some time before its take-off. One was a well-known actor—the epitome of the languid British aristocrat, but in reality a Rumanian Jew; the other an Anglo-German Jew virtually unknown to the wide world. One is said to have exclaimed to the other: 'I have only played the part of the Scarlet Pimpernel but you *were* the Scarlet Pimpernel!' A few hours later both were dead; drowned in the sea.

The story of the death of Leslie Howard became a Second World War legend: How there had been a thick-set man in a siren suit among the passengers of that ill-fated plane, made up to resemble and act as a decoy for Churchill, due back from North Africa; how the Germans were determined to shoot him down in mid-flight; and how the lives of Leslie Howard and of the other passengers and crew had been deliberately sacrificed to ensure the Prime Minister's safe passage on a later plane.

Few people knew at the time and even now, 40 years on, not many Jews—let alone the world at large—realise that among those passengers was an important German Jew with a British passport, the unsung saviour of many Jewish lives, working very much in the shadows, returning from an errand of mercy—Wilfrid Israel.

Many people knew him slightly, often knew only one aspect of this man whom a friend had called 'a set of Chinese boxes'. Even his intimate friends rarely knew all the angles and depths of this most complicated human being. Telling the story of the real Wilfrid Israel was very much overdue and Naomi Shepherd, a British-born journalist living in Israel, has at last done it; and a very splendid, thoroughly researched book it is. (*Wilfrid Israel—German-Jewry's Secret Ambassador*. Weidenfeld, £12.95).

Those of us who grew up in pre-Nazi Berlin well



Wilfrid Israel

remember that splendiferous Victorian edifice, opposite the Red Rathaus, the emporium of N. Israel, founded by Wilfrid's great-grandfather over 150 years ago as a purveyor of fine linen and fabrics. It had grown into one of Berlin's leading department stores, employing over 2000 people and was known not only for the quality of its merchandise but also for the excellence of its staff relations.

Decades before those two British Jews, Simon Marks and Israel Sieff pioneered a social conscience among enlightened employers and intro-

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday, 12 July 1984, at 7.45 pm at Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, London NW3.

The evening will combine the Annual General Meeting with a meeting of the Board. The members of the Board have already received individual invitations to attend.

We wish to devote part of the time on this occasion to consider and discuss in some detail changes necessary in the Association's functions so that in the years ahead we can provide services designed to meet the needs of our community.

In view of the importance of the matters to be considered we have decided not to invite an outside speaker to address us this year, but hope to resume this practice next year.

We look forward to a particularly good attendance at this important meeting.

duced into retailing all kinds of staff amenities, the Israels had provided sickness insurance for the staff, in addition to the rudimentary social security system introduced by Bismarck. They had granted their people extra pensions, gave them long weekends off, financed recreational staff facilities, such as sports clubs and dramatic societies. N. Israel was the first and the most benevolent of the Jewish department store dynasties, such as Tietz and Wertheim, and the last to be finally snuffed out by the Nazis.

On his mother's side the pedigree is equally impressive. His great grandfather, who was born in Hannover (at a time before Victoria's accession

Don't miss:

Daughters Speak Up page 8

Letters Galore page 4

Segall Tributes page 6

Queen's Award page 5

A REAL SCARLET PIMPERNEL

to the throne when both Britain and Hannover shared the same sovereign) became Chief Rabbi of England. Although Wilfrid's mother lived in Berlin for all her married life and spoke German fluently, she never lost her inclination to the life of an English grande dame. She insisted that the birth of her first child take place in London. Thus it came about that Wilfrid was British born. Yet for most of his life he was a conscious German national, until towards his premature end, his British passport became invaluable.

From early youth Wilfrid developed into a complex character, a multifaceted human being, making different impressions on different people at different times of his life. Three traditions sustained him, the German, the Jewish and the English, often pulling him in different directions. He could be at times articulate and sociable, but more often was introvert, shy, shunning the limelight and was at his best when operating behind the scenes, allowing others to take credit for his work. But the book makes it abundantly clear that beneath all that reticence there burnt a deep, humanitarian passion for his fellow human beings, which after 1933 increasingly focussed on saving as many Jews as possible from the Nazis' clutches.

Wilfrid Israel was brought up in the lap of that luxury which a number of rich Berlin Jews enjoyed during the Wilhelminian era: a mansion in the Tiergarten district, liveried servants, an elegant social life. Yet as a youngster he became, and remained for the rest of his life, a moderate socialist. Untypically for somebody of his background and intellect, his education was patchy. He never went to university and when he finally entered the family emporium as heir apparent, he did so without any prior training for a top executive in a major retailing organisation.

Relief work

From then onwards he managed to combine full-time employment in the family firm with active involvement in the problems of the world, in particular relief work under the auspices of the League of Nations—travelling extensively in Poland and the Baltic States, assisting Nansen relief projects in Russia, paying the first of his many visits to Palestine as well as to the USA and the Far East. From there he brought back an abiding interest in oriental artefacts and began to build up a remarkable collection, part of which was destroyed during the London Blitz, but most of which is now on display at the HaZorea Kibbutz in Israel, of which he had been one of the original sponsors. In his spare time he was a sculptor of no mean talent and one gains the impression from reading the book and talking to people who knew him as their N. Israel boss, that if he had not been imbued with such a strong moral imperative, he would have best liked to lead the life of a cultured amateur aesthete. But for somebody like Wilfrid Israel that never was an option.

He was always particularly interested in young people. In later years the rescue of endangered Jewish children became his main preoccupation. Idealistic, intense adolescents attracted him. In the

early nineteen thirties he became involved with just such a group, the Werkleute, an outcrop of the German-Jewish youth movement, the Kameraden who by then had split up into the Schwarze Fahnlein on the right and the Werkleute on the left. They were socialists who only after 1933 turned to Palestine and eventually with his help established their own Kibbutz, HaZorea.

However, his friends were by no means all Jews. One of them was Christopher Isherwood, whose portrait of Bernhard Landauer in 'Goodbye Berlin' is supposedly, and rather unfairly, based on Wilfrid. Isherwood himself later wrote: 'Christopher suspected Wilfrid was a severely repressed homosexual and that as such he condemned Christopher for his aggressive frankness about his own sex life.'

From 1933 onwards Wilfrid became increasingly involved in working for the Jewish community, toiling behind the scenes for such organisations as the Hilfsverein, the Reichsvertretung, the Jewish Agency and Youth Aliyah, travelling constantly on his British passport. He became the friend and confidant of such people as Einstein (who later described him as 'one of the finest and most noble individuals I have personally known'), Martin Buber, Leo Baeck and Max Warburg.

Beaten up

Amongst his Christian friends were the enigmatic Adam Trott zu Solz, and George Bell, Bishop of Chichester and our guardian angel in this country. He also established a useful relationship with such leading Anglo-Jewish families as the Rothschilds, the Samuels and the Laskis. He constantly tangled with the Nazi authorities, being arrested by the Gestapo several times, once being beaten up and always escaping incarceration in a KZ by a whisker.

He could have so easily taken himself permanently from Nazi Berlin to a secure and elegantly comfortable life in London, but Naomi Shepherd makes it abundantly clear that it would have been wholly out of character. It was not only the gathering assault on German Jewry at large which demanded so much of his time, but even more so the daily, sometimes petty, obstacles which from 1933 onwards N. Israel faced, as the vice gradually and inexorably tightened. His father Berthold had become frail. Together with his brother Herbert, Wilfrid was now virtually running the firm, resisting all pressures to sell out or close down, primarily in order to protect the livelihood of their many Jewish employees, whom they were often helping financially and for whom they were slowly finding havens abroad.

Wilfrid had never been a card-carrying Zionist. His involvement with Palestine was that of a sincere sympathiser, interested in the socialist agricultural settlements.

He had been the first to warn the British authorities of the Nazi plans for mass deportations and, even before Riegner in Geneva, spoke of 'impending extermination and annihilation'.

It was he who, even before the Kristallnacht, urged the British government through his contacts

at the Foreign Office to open a transit camp for refugees, which in January 1939 led to the opening of the Kitchener Camp. He was also instrumental in getting young land workers admitted to England for training for Palestine. He constantly bombarded the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva to find more havens for the refugees. Through his contacts in the USA he laboured in vain for an easement of the inflexible quota system.

Wilfrid had also been involved in the tortuous and ultimately fruitless negotiations with the Nazis that went on for years, first with Schacht, then with Wohltat, to facilitate and finance emigration by increased German exports, for which the intending emigrant would pay in marks and then receive reimbursement abroad from the purchasers—a scheme which always came to grief on the rock of the world-wide Jewish boycott of German goods.

He constantly travelled in and out of Germany and finally left for London on 26 August, and then only because he had been warned that he was about to be interned.

Innumerable obstacles

From the outbreak of the war until his death in 1943 he toiled in the interests of the Jews under Nazi dominion and of those beached in this country, mostly anonymously, rarely surfacing into the limelight. He faced innumerable obstacles, the internecine disagreements within the Jewish hierarchy, Weizmann, Shertok, Goldmann, the Jewish Agency, the various American bodies, all at odds with each other on basic principles as well as detailed steps. He also tilted all the time against the reluctance of the British government to do more for the stranded Jews or to commit themselves to a coherent post-war policy. It took months until Wilfrid, with his unique contacts and experiences, was even offered a semi-official position, and even then only a lowly job in the German Section of Chatham House evacuated to Balliol College.

When mass internment began in the spring of 1940 he interceded with the Home Office on behalf of the interned refugees and visited their camps, but his main preoccupation continued to be the rescue of children. Early in 1943 Britain at last agreed that the 33,000 odd Palestine immigration certificates which had remained unused from the 1939 White Paper final batch of 50,000 could be used for the rescue of European Jews. Wilfrid persuaded the Jewish Agency to send him to Lisbon to investigate the chances and the channels to bring at least 1,000 children out of Vichy France. He also carried in his pocket 200 certificates for Jews who had managed to reach Lisbon. He was returning from this mission, which was intended to be the first of many, when he lost his life.

Naomi Shepherd's book is fascinating from beginning to end. It does not always reflect credit on the various Jewish bodies involved. Nor does it entirely succeed in presenting an integrated, recognisable human being from such a kaleidoscope of character facets. That may be an impossible task in Wilfrid Israel's case. It contains a few minor, but niggling mistakes, but can be highly recommended all the same.

Perhaps the Psalmist's supplication is the most fitting epithet for Wilfrid: 'Deliver Israel, oh God, out of its troubles'.

LETTER HOME NEWS

IRELAND'S BRITISH HERITAGE

The topical question of Ireland's British Heritage was the subject of this year's Thank-You Britain Fund lectures by Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien. In his introductory remarks, the President of the British Academy, Professor Owen Chadwick, KBE, who was in the Chair, recalled the genesis of the 'Thanks Offering to Britain Fund', as it is officially called, and paid tribute to the AJR, which had raised the Fund in 1965.

Referring to the name, Dr. O'Brien jokingly stated that some of his Irish countrymen might not consider it appropriate to express gratitude to Britain. He gave a historical survey of the various waves of immigration of British settlers to Ireland.

One of the paradoxes, he said, was the fact that the Irish patron saint, St. Patrick, had come from Britain. He also recalled that the Irish were originally adversaries of the American Revolution, whereas now, the Irish immigrants play an important part in the political life of the United States.

These are only a few examples of the mass of material presented by the speaker. The lecture was well attended. Yet it is regrettable that there were only comparatively few AJR members in the audience, though the activities of the Thank-You Britain Fund should be of particular interest to them.

W.R.

INFORMATION WANTED

Information is sought concerning decorations and mentions in despatches awarded to Palestinian Jews during the Second World War and also awards to Zion Mule Corps members and the Jewish Legion in the First World War. The inquirer is A. N. Pamm, PO Box 1068, Rhine Road, Sea Point, 8050, South Africa. Also in relation to World War II, Sidney Goldberg, 108 Alicia Gardens, Kenton, Mx, is hoping to reunite former members of 382-384 W.U. RAF.

Yet another seeker is Shlomo Karniel, Hashoeva Street, Ramat Hasharon, ZC 47286, Israel, who is trying to uncover the fate of Cretan Jewry. In 1944, all Jews found by the Nazis on the island were taken to Canea. There they were put on board a ship and the last vestiges of this ancient community disappear at this point. Mr. Karniel would be very grateful to hear from survivors or from anyone else who may know what happened after the Cretan Jews embarked.

NCCL'S ANTI-FRONT VOTE

By a majority of 10, the annual meeting of the National Council for Civil Liberties voted not to defend the civil rights of the National Front or members of other organisations regarded as Fascist or racist. In February, Joseph Pearce of the National Front applied to the NCCL after cars carrying NF members were stopped by police on the way to South Yorkshire, where they intended to hold a counter-demonstration to a pro-IRA march. The Council offered legal advice to the

organisation, a proceeding which deeply offended Left-wing members.

The NCCL has lately held an enquiry into police tactics in the miners' strike, has opposed police cameras checking for stolen cars on motorways and has advised soccer hooligans put in "sin bins" to sue for wrongful imprisonment.

Salford Council recently banned a proposed NF march in the city after several organisations (including Manchester Jewish Representative Council) asked the Chief Constable to reconsider his decision to permit the procession.

SUCCESSFUL BAZAAR AT LEO BAECK HOUSE

The warm and happy atmosphere inside Leo Baeck House at their annual bazaar on 6 May more than made up for the cold and unseasonable May weather outside.

The Home was filled to capacity with enthusiastic buyers of plants, cakes, books, bric-à-brac, jewellery, toiletries, etc., all of which had been generously donated.

The highlights of the afternoon were the 'Guess the Cake Weight' competition and the raffle. Everyone gathered in the main hall to hear the House Chairman, Mr. M. Durst, announce the winners. Mr. Durst had donated many of the gifts to the bazaar, and together with the Matron, Mrs. Dick, members of the House Committee and the team of voluntary helpers, ensured that the afternoon was an outstanding success.

L.L.

CLUB 1943

Meetings on Mondays at 8pm
Hannah Karminski House,
9, Adamson Road, NW3

- 4 June: Charles Guttman: "Shakespeare's Tragic Heroes".
- 11 June: Dr. F. C. Fifer: "The Parting of the Ways". A new assessment of a critical phase in human evolution".
- 18 June: W. Goddard Goetz: "How the Danish Jews Were Saved".
- 25 June: George Jaeger: "The Relevance of Karl Marx today".
- 2 July: Annual Outing to Bodiam Castle and Sheffield Park Gardens.
- 9 July: Ada Crown: "A Mystery Drive in Israel".
- 16 July: Martha Tausz: "Chinese Tombs and Gardens".
- 23 July: S. W. Nelki: "Familienforschung".
- 30 July: Dr. E. Seligmann: "Stehen die Türken wieder vor Wien?" (*Islam greift an von V.S. Naipaul.*)

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GERMAN SOCIAL INSURANCE

Alterations effective from 1.1.1984 in regard to pension entitlements

1. The qualifying period (in German: *Wartezeit*) for an *old age pension at the age of 65* is now 60 contribution months, including substitute contribution months (*Ersatzzeiten*), instead of 180 months, as hitherto.
2. The requirements for a *disability pension* (*Berufs- or Erwerbsunfähigkeitsrente*) have been made more onerous.

- a. As hitherto, the qualifying period (in German: *Wartezeit*) is 60 contribution months, including substitute contribution months (*Ersatzzeiten*). There is now the additional requirement that there must be a period of 36 *compulsory contribution* (not including voluntary or substitute contribution) months within 60 months before the onset of the (50% or higher) disability. In this regard, *British compulsory contributions* will suffice.

The practical significance of this innovation will be apparent when it is remembered that disability pensions were in the past granted to persons who had not paid any insurance contribution for years.

- b. There are some transitional rules (in all these cases, the existence of the qualifying period of 60 monthly contributions before 1.1.1984 is essential).
 - aa. The innovation mentioned under (a) does not apply if the 50% or higher disability sets in *between 1st January and 30th June 1984*. Consequently, there would then be an entitlement to the disability pension even though there is no period of 36 months' compulsory contributions during the last 60 months before the onset of the disability.
 - bb. If the 50% or higher disability sets in *between 1st July and 31st December 1984*, the innovation does not apply, if compulsory or voluntary German contributions are paid for each of the 6 months from January to June 1984.
 - cc. The new rule does not apply if the insured person pays compulsory or voluntary German contributions for each calendar month from 1.1.1984 onwards until the end of the calendar year before the onset of the disability.
- c. Payment of further contributions in line with the transitional rule mentioned under (cc) appears hardly advisable. Whether payment of contributions as per paragraph (bb) is advisable depends upon the circumstances of individual cases. Persons who contemplate making such payment should consult their advisers or the German insurance authority.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fritz Haber

Sir—The interesting article on Professor Fritz Haber reminded me of an incident which took place in the autumn of the year 1919.

I was then working for the Trade Department of the German Embassy at Berne. Dr. Philip Reinhardt from Mannheim invited me to spend three weeks with him in St. Moritz. At the Chantarella Hotel I was introduced to Mr. & Mrs. Fritz Haber with whom we had dinner. I was told that he was a famous scientist and that he was a director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin. After dinner I played a game of cards with them and to my great surprise, I won.

A few days after my return to the Embassy in Berne, I received a personal handwritten letter from Professor Haber with an inner sealed envelope containing apparently certain 'documents'. In the most friendly terms he asked me to despatch the envelope by special courier to the German War Office in Berlin as he did not wish to risk the contents being seen by the censor. My superior at the Embassy, whom I consulted, assured me that he knew all about this delicate matter and that it was quite in order for me to carry out these instructions.

At the same time I was advised to keep the letter from Professor Haber as a souvenir because he was such a famous scientist that his letter and signature could one day prove of great interest as a personal autograph. Professor Haber discovered methods of extracting nitrogen from the air to produce fertilisers. Just as Weizmann's discoveries aided England so Germany was indebted to Haber's research.

Germany had always been dependent upon the import of guano from Chile. As a small boy on holiday at the North Sea I well recall being impressed by the enormous 5 mast clipper the 'Potosi' majestically entering the river Elbe. The shipping company was called Laisz and its ships took two to three months to sail from Chile to Hamburg to deliver the guano.

For over half a century the Haber letter was kept with other old family documents in a small metal box in my desk.

Unfortunately about ten years ago burglars broke into my home, forced open my desk and stole the box. According to the C.I.D. the thieves probably destroyed all the documents including the Haber letter!

Professor Haber was known in Germany as 'Stickstoff-Haber' or nitrogen-Haber. Although he had been baptised into the Evangelical Church, I understood that after his meeting with Weizmann in Switzerland, he reverted to Judaism.

16 Faber Gardens, LUDWIG LION
London N.W.4 4NS

Haber at Institute

Sir,—I was very interested in the article about Professor Haber and send you the enclosed photocopy of the dismissal notice sent to my late husband and signed by Haber.

My husband worked for Professor Polanyi at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Dahlem and came with him to Manchester University (1933) where he was only allowed to stay until he had trained someone to take over his place. In 1935 he was offered a post at the Daniel Sieff Institute (re-

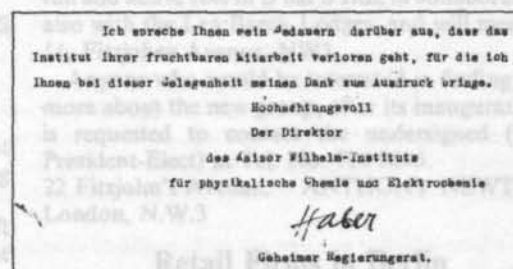
named the Weizmann Institute) in Rehovoth to which he went. Returning on holiday with me in 1939 we were trapped by the war.

He kept this note of dismissal (extract illustrated).

On a visit to Berlin in 1977 for the first time since he left in 1933, we were invited to the Fritz Haber Institute and also saw a large bronze plaque on the entrance wall commemorating Haber's sojourn there.

After Haber's death, half his library was donated to the Weizmann Institute.

MRS. L. MARTINS



The concluding paragraph of the letter from Prof. Fritz Haber to M. Schmalz, at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, dated 29 July 1933, citing the new regulations about 'aryanisation' leading to this letter of dismissal.

Dr. Schonfeld

Sir,—Allow me to express to you the gratification I felt when reading the obituary on Rabbi Dr. Schonfeld in this month's AJR Information.

I was glad to read how well you appraise Rabbi Dr. Schonfeld's heroic service when he saved many thousands from the Nazi Hell and how he brought over at the risk of his life hundreds of children and cared for their spiritual and economic welfare.

There are thousands of people all over the world who are for ever indebted to him for their lives and rehabilitation.

At the same time I want to tell you that I find your paper increasingly interesting and informative.

214 Green Lanes, Dr. JUDITH GRUNFELD
London, N.4

His Charisma

Sir,—Quite by chance, I came across AJR Information in the home of a friend of mine and, though not a refugee, read with interest the article on Dr. Schonfeld. I met him on several occasions, but my most vivid memory of him is when, in December 1938 he came knocking on the doors of the Anglo-Jewish community in North London exhorting the families to take in one or more of the children whom he had, and was arranging to rescue from the persecution in Germany and Austria.

Although just thirteen years old, I can recall as though it was yesterday, this tall and handsome man, with neat reddish beard and brilliant blue eyes, who exuded such charisma, that hundreds of households, including my mother's, responded to his call.

Much later, I learned a great deal more about the daring feats of this brave and compassionate man, this 20th Century Pimpernel, to whom thousands are indebted for their lives.

28 Chelmsford Gardens, (Mrs) TRUDY GLICK
Cranbrook, Ilford, Essex

Antisemitic Trends

Sir,—Egon Larsen's review of 'Exil in Grossbritannien'—attractive and thoughtful—concludes with observations on antisemitism in this country with which I cannot go along. Careful study of antisemitic trends—overt and covert—in this island among my fellow German Jews and the Jewish community in Brighton and Hove, together with extracts from the press, radio and television, supports Dr Berghahn's quoted opinion.

Just one example: numerous appeals to the administrative authorities of the Royal Courts of Justice to arrange the removal of pornographic/sadistic graffiti of Nazi antisemitic bestiality were of no avail. A brief letter to Lord Widgery, then Lord Chief Justice and one of my tutors in the thirties, brought forth a letter of sympathy and instant obliteration.

Under the cloak of anti-Zionism and in its naked form I meet with antisemitism in all strata of society. As in Germany, unemployment appears to be a catalyst with frightening effects. To refer to Dr Berghahn's "statements" as "really appalling" discloses a disconcerting lack of observation on Egon Larsen's part. A talk with the regular worshippers at the Middle Street Synagogue would be an eye opener. Most of them are second, third and even fourth generation Jews.

Thank you for AJR Information. When it arrives *The Times* and the *JC* must take second and third place.

3 Brangwyn Crescent, WALTER BLUHM
Westdene, Brighton BN1 8XJ

"Protocols of Zion"

Sir,—J. Langmaid, in the review of Stephen Knight's book on the Freemasons, mentions the "old discredited calumny" of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion", extensively used by Hitler and his accomplices as one of the basic propaganda weapons against the Jews: the myth of a Zionist plot to rule the world. It was the alleged text of lectures by Theodor Herzl to the Jewish leaders. Published internationally after 1905, it was meant to prepare people's minds for pogroms and genocide. However, in 1921 the work was unmasked as a brazen forgery, based on a French political satire of the 1860s, which attacked Napoleon III.

The man who discovered the fraud was Philip Percival Graves, the "Times" correspondent in Constantinople, a half-brother of the poet and historical novelist ("I, Claudius") Robert Graves. By chance, P. P. Graves came across a tattered copy of that French pamphlet of 1864, entitled "Dialogue in Hell between Machiavelli and Montesquieu", published anonymously. Later, the author was identified as the Paris lawyer and satirist Maurice Joly; he was sent to jail for ridiculing Napoleon as Machiavelli.

One look at Joly's booklet showed Graves that it was the original of the "Protocols" which were, in fact, a crude plagiarism, with Herzl uttering Machiavelli's (i.e. Napoleon's) immoral opinions about politics. Graves wrote for the "Times" three articles about his discovery, juxtaposing excerpts from the "Protocols" and the corresponding, identical texts from the "Dialogue".

Graves also pointed to the likely forger, a Russian professor called Nilus, who worked for the Okhrana, the Tsar's secret police. Unfortunately, the "Times" series was unable to discredit, once and for all, the infamous "Protocols".

EGON LARSEN

LETTERS (continued)**They Also Served**

Sir,—Thank you for Egon Larsen's fine article "Under the Microscope", in the May issue. May I disagree with him on some points?

His Majesty's even more loyal subjects had the chance to join the Army when war broke out. Nearly 1,000 German, Austrian, Czech and Polish Jews did so. We were still in France in the British Army three weeks after Dunkirk and while the German Army was in Paris. Why didn't Mr. Larsen mention us? I know I was no hero, but we had heroes, some of whom were killed in action and some of whom rose to be colonels, naval officers and pilots.

78 Priory Road,
London, NW6 3NT

GERALD ELLIS

Transport to Canada

Sir,—May I be allowed to correct your statement that the *Andora Star* was the first ship transporting internees to Canada.

The first transport (with internees) left Liverpool on 21 June 1941 and we arrived at Quebec on 28 June. I think the ship was called the *Duchess of York*.

My return journey started on 21 June 1942, the ship being called the *Indrapora*, which was part of the biggest convoy up to that time and we arrived in Gourock on 30 June.

103 High Moor Crescent, WERNER GOERKE
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"Leo Baeck Unity"

Sir,—With the help and support of the Leo Baeck Lodges and also David and Ruth Stern, Anthony Newton, a fourth generation member of B'nai B'rith) has started a new group which is called "Leo Baeck Unity".

An application has just been made to B'nai B'rith Headquarters in Washington, for the inauguration of the Group and for a Charter to be presented at the Inauguration Evening on Sunday, 10th June.

There are over 60 founder members, mostly single, with the age stretching from the 30's to the early 50's.

After receiving its Charter, the "Leo Baeck Unity Lodge" as it will be called, hopes to play a full and active role in B'nai B'rith, in collaboration also with the Leo Baeck Lodges, and will meet at 11, Fitzjohns Avenue, NW3.

Anyone who would be interested in finding out more about the new group, after its inauguration, is requested to contact the undersigned (first President-Elect) at Tel. No. 794 9696.

22 Fitzjohn's Avenue, ANTHONY NEWTON
London, N.W.3

Retail Firms in Berlin

Sir,—I am engaged in research on retail firms in pre-Nazi Berlin, many of which were owned by Jews until they were expropriated and "aryanised". Whereas much has already been published about Berlin Jews in the fields of the arts, scholarship and science, comparatively little is available about the subject of my research. I should be grateful for any information readers of your journal might be able to provide, e.g. names, circumstances of "aryanisation", history of firms, albums, calendars, letter headings, receipts etc. I should like to mention that to some extent my interest arose from the fact that I am a nephew of the late partner of the fashion house of Kersten & Tuteur.

Pallasstrasse 2 KLAUS-MARTIN KERSTEN
1000 Berlin 30

MAPAM SEMINAR AT BRIGHTON

Brighton was the venue for a seminar on the concept of Jewish culture through the ages. Well over 100 Mapam youth delegates from 13 different countries attended the three-day meeting.



Ernest Kochmann, director of Pafra's award-winning equipment division and globe-trotting salesman.

THE QUEEN'S EXPORT AWARD FOR PAFRA

The Queen's Award for Export Achievement, 1984, has been won by the equipment division of Essex-based Pafra Ltd. The company specialises in serving the packaging, paper converting and printing industries, through the manufacture of cold water-based synthetic emulsion adhesives, and the design and marketing of equipment for applying cold adhesives.

Pafra was founded by the present managing director Mr. Max Kochmann, and the late Mr. Paul Frankfurter, both of whom came to Britain from Germany as teenagers in the late 1930s. They started the company in East London in 1960, before moving to an industrial estate at Basildon.

Mr. Kochmann, an executive member of the AJR, is chairman of Basildon Hebrew Congregation and a past president of the Leo Baeck Lodge (London) of B'nai Brith.



Max Kochmann, co-founder of Pafra, which has won the Queen's Award, and member of the AJR executive.

Also active in Jewish affairs and a member of the Leo Baeck Lodge, is his son Ernest, a chemical engineering graduate, who is the director of Pafra's equipment division. Last year he made a 'round the world' selling trip, including visits to the USA, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore. Sales in Japan are now "doing very well" he said.

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES TO DORA SEGALL

On June 1, Dora Segall will be 80 years old, but her vigour and her undiminished activities belie her age. As Vice-Chairman of the AJR Club she has added lustre to the standing of the AJR, and the AJR Executive is deeply indebted to her for the devoted services she has rendered in this important section of the organisation.

Dora Segall has been associated with Jewish communal life for half a century. From 1933 until her emigration shortly before the outbreak of war she held various responsible positions in Berlin's Kantstrasse, where leading Jewish organisations had their headquarters. At that time, Hannah Karminski and Cora Berliner were particularly close to her.

After her arrival in this country she worked for ten years with the Welfare Department of the Jewish Refugees Committee. In 1955, when the Leo Baeck Institute was founded, she became the first secretary of the London Office. Her "principal" was the late Robert Weltsch. She became deeply attached to him and helped him, especially after the untimely death of his wife Irene. The relationship persisted after he had settled in Israel at the end of 1978 and she untiringly served as a link between him and London. He always gratefully acknowledged her assistance. As he can no longer speak to us we act in keeping with his attitude by putting his thanks on record.

Some of Dora's activities outside the Jewish field have also to be mentioned on this important occasion. Before 1933 she was for seven years secretary of the "Verband deutscher Bühnenschriftsteller und Bühnenkomponisten". In this country she was a member of the Association of German Social Democrats in Great Britain, of which her husband, the late Fritz Segall, was chairman. In this capacity, she re-established contacts with politicians and social workers in Germany and also became well known to many Labour members of Parliament. The fact that in 1947 she obtained the Diploma in Social Studies of the University of London exemplifies her integration in this country notwithstanding her faithfulness to her past and the tasks arising from it.

The widespread recognition of Dora Segall's personality is re-affirmed in the ensuing tributes paid to her by her friends and fellow-workers.

Dear Dora,

Next to the date of your birthday it says: "Don't take any notice". We obeyed. But this year, as it is a very special one, your 80th, we are allowed to congratulate and celebrate you. Our overwhelming feelings go out to you in love, admiration and gratitude for the outstanding work you are doing for the AJR Club as its Co-chairwoman and we especially appreciate your devoted care for its sick members.

Nobody else can match your efficiency in organising the functions of the Club which always turn out to provide marvellous enjoyment for all of its members. Your aim is always to make everybody happy. But, above all, it is your lovable personality we adore. Your warmheartedness is a blessing to all of us. More than that, you are the very symbol of a true friend. Whoever is fortunate enough to become your friend, has the privilege of being cared for by you as I am. Not only to me, but to many others you give the security of a lasting and loving friendship.

I thank you, Dora, for this, from all my heart.

The AJR Club has in admiration and gratitude to you inscribed your name in the Golden Book of Israel for your tireless devotion and helpfulness.

Forever yours

MARGARET JACOBY

For most members of our circle of friends it is by now a definite fact that we have been living longer in Britain, the country of our adoption, than in our native country on the Continent. The country of our adoption has become the country we appreciate and love, the country to which we belong—unquestionably, if still with the vague feeling that once upon a time there was another place which just as unquestionably we called our homeland. We have become used to the language, to the customs, to the people. What we have never quite got used to is the weather. Britain, England, it must be admitted, is a chilly country. In spite of the endeavours of the warm Gulf stream which, originating in the Gulf of Mexico, but decreasing in velocity and persistency during its long journey to the English Channel, never quite loses its mitigating effect in North and West Europe, we do miss during the English summer—with only rare exceptions—the stable and reliable warmth we remember from the summers on the Continent. It is therefore of tremendous importance that there exist other sources of warmth which come to the help of the English sun. Fortunately we are given them. We enjoy in our midst the presence of our friend Dora Segall who, unbelievably though it may appear, has joined the rank of the octogenarians. Dora, Dorothea, the "gift of the Gods", indeed does honour to her name.

Helping every feeble neighbour,

Seeking help from none;

Life is mostly froth and bubble.

Two things stand like stone:

Kindness in another's trouble,

Courage in your own.

Had then the old Adam Lindsay Gordon (1833-1870) to whom we owe this verse, known our Dora? True, the dates of their lives are against any such assumption. But Dora herself is a great believer in coincidences, that is to say in the notable concurrence of facts without any apparent causal connection.

This indeed is a worthy picture of our Dora. "Helping every feeble neighbour..." The total of her "feeble neighbours" who are blessed with receiving her help is unlimited. They are getting older, lonelier, more helpless. Dora finds them, knows them, discovers ways to give support. Through a long life of intelligent social work she has learned of almost every possible contact which may be used to allay unfortunate conditions. She never spares her efforts in applying them. With unobtrusive efficiency she exerts herself to give knowledgeable assistance. She likes people and people like her. With every thought and action she adds to that sun-lit warmth which our English climate is sometimes reluctant to let us enjoy.

More often than not the help she gives to "every feeble neighbour" results in generating ties of friendship to those blessed by her care. While precarious human nature often makes people on the receiving end not so much grateful as embarrassed and given to resentment, Dora's way of giving is of a kind that hardly ever produces such undesirable effects. Her heart-felt delight and loving smile prevent any feeling of humiliation on the side of the beneficiaries. The number of her charges grows steadily and sometimes exceeds the range of "friends in need" she is able to cope with. But like Mrs. Margaret Jacoby, her friend and shining example, she is never found wanting.

The English weather will for ever remain one of the most popular subjects of conversation. However, when we are inclined to grow sorely critical or even indignant about it, we should never forget that all our climatic and meteorological complaints are mitigated by the presence in our midst of the youthful octogenarian Dora Segall who lets the sun of friendship and love shine upon everyone with her benevolent "kindness in another's trouble, courage in her own".

EVA G. REICHMANN

Heartiest congratulations to you, dear Dora,

I think I am one of the few friends who has known you from childhood onwards and knows of your many talents and care for others. My memories go back to the time when we went to school. When I was 6 years old and you 9 years, my mother took me to school and we met you. I was so proud that you took notice of me and talked so nicely to me. My mother wondered that you cared about me, being so much older. I was very much annoyed that my mother had drawn your attention to the fact that I was such a small child.

You were not only a very good pupil but also in our school performances you were the best actress. Whilst still at school you took part in voluntary shorthand courses so that you were later on able to surprise Dr. Otto Hirsch, when he gave a lecture without a text one evening and found his lecture typed by you the next morning.

After our emigration I met you again at Bloomsbury House where you worked in such an efficient manner. In spite of the fact that you had a full-time job you managed to take part in social science courses and passed the exam with distinction as the only one.

May your talents, energy and efficiency help you to continue your useful work for many years to come in good health.

Your old friend
LOTTE BLUMENFELD

To: Dora

My fondest greetings on your 80th birthday. Your selflessness, loyalty, admirable patience, your warmhearted understanding of human frailty, not to mention your sense of humour, are qualities which make you a real "Friend for All Seasons".

May you, my dear Dora be able to lead such a fulfilling life for a long time to come.

RUTH SCHNEIDER

DORA SEGALL

I have known Dora Segall for a long time and have always admired her energy and her personality. One lesser known attribute of her qualities is her good-neighbourliness. Dora and her late husband lived next door to my mother-in-law, Anna Schwab, in Goldhurst Terrace. My late mother-in-law was then old, and mostly housebound. She had always been a "doer" (as many members of the AJR will recall) and she found the lack of activity and inability to take part in communal affairs very irksome. That is where Dora and her husband came in. Every day they popped in to visit her, to have a little chat and, what is more important, to introduce her to the joys of literature (for which she had never before had time) by lending her books and talking to her about them. I have no doubt that this was a great comfort to her in her last years. All her family were and still are most grateful to the Segalls for their kindness and thoughtful help. Long may Dora continue!

ALICE SCHWAB

Warm wishes and congratulations to Dora Segall. Her birthday gives us the welcome opportunity of expressing a deep-felt gratitude to a very special woman for the part she has played, not only in building and moulding the AJR Club, but also for her particular role within the German-Jewish community at large. Her devotion, which she so unstintingly gives, her personal talents, which she puts at our disposal, whenever, wherever have in no small measure helped to develop our growth into a more closely-knit community.

L. K. E. WOODMAN
LUCY KAY

ST JOAN AT THE NATIONAL

Saint Joan by Bernard Shaw. Directed by Ronald Eyre at The National Theatre. Ronald Eyre has made a lively production of this Saint Joan, eye-catching and reasonably fast-moving. The problem, as always, is with the first part: to have a Joan who convinces us that she can inspire and lead men into battle. Frances de la Tour is a fine actress of many qualities, and struts about forcefully and bossily, but she just doesn't have the charisma that wins our belief in this very special and very difficult part. Where some of the early scenes drag a bit, the fault is clearly not the doing of an energetic and attractive cast, but the occasional woodenness and fading of Shaw's point-scoring prose, which does not match his loftiest theme.

The second half, the trial scene, is as wonderfully gripping as ever, and there Frances de la Tour gives a first-class, wholly convincing performance. Shaw profits of course from having fully exploited the impact and drama of his source.

The advantages of having a National Theatre are emphasised by the ability of the Director to cast two such outstanding actors as Cyril Cusack and Michael Bryant as the Inquisitor's Deputy and Monseigneur Cauchon respectively. They make fully-rounded and richly complex characters of roles that offer simplistic traps to others.

The Epilogue has presented difficulties from the very beginning, and it has not been solved here. More could have been done to choreograph the movement more effectively and imaginatively, to charge the atmosphere with a more dream-like quality, or perhaps a surreal solution could have been tried; as it stands, it is all bits and pieces. The fault is really the author's, but there is scope for the director to transform the charade with his bag of tricks. Nevertheless, a good evening in the theatre, a production well worth seeing. M.S.

FLEET STREET IN SPIEGL'S DISTORTING MIRROR

Austrian-born Fritz Spiegl, who came to England as a child-refugee, has become well-known as one of Liverpool's cultural notables: as the "First Flute" of the city's Philharmonic Orchestra, journalist, broadcaster, composer of TV jingles, regular contributor to "The Listener", and philologist of Scouse, Liverpool's dialect. Now he has held up his mirror, a slightly distorting one, to the popular press in a most entertaining yet critical paperback with the title "Keep taking the tabloids!" (Pan Books, £1.75).

His target is what he calls Fleet-Street English, the language of the low-brow tabloids with their clichés, misprints and would-be humorous headlines such as "Butter battle spreads", "Nudist stripped of office", "Vice probe horror shock—bishop flayed", or "Dowager's bottom gets face-lift". In that idiom people are "hitting out" or getting a "tongue-lashing", events are "carefully orchestrated", coppers are "swooping", prices "soaring" or "plummeting", old-hat stories are "exclusive" or "revealing", and every ambulance makes a "mercy dash".

As to misprints, Spiegl himself is used to having his age (48) quoted as 58 or 84 and his name as Speigle. Among the wealth of facsimile cuttings we find a speech about the "preservation of the Lord's Dad", and one accompanied by "excessive testicularation". Spiegl missed, however, "Private Eye's" habit of calling our favourite daily paper the "Grauniad" because of its notorious abundance of misprints.

Still, Fritz Spiegl's basic intention is not just that of amusing his readers by ridiculing Fleet Street, but one can sense his underlying love of the English language which he hates seeing misused and degraded. E.L.

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SEARCH FOR ROOTS

DAUGHTERS SPEAK UP

"During the life of this group I have changed enormously," writes Ruth of the Jewish Women's History Group, a gathering of four Jewish daughters of refugees who met over a period of two years to discuss their pasts and those of their families in an effort to discover their true Jewish identities. (*You'd Prefer Me Not To Mention It...: The Lives of Four Jewish Daughters of Refugees. The Jewish Women's History Group. £2.00.*)

"I have always been quite shy and used to sit in large groups and never dare say a word," Ruth continues. "But last January (1982) at the First National Jewish Feminist Conference, I led a workshop for Jewish women of a refugee background... It is largely due to all the months spent talking about my own background in this group that I was able to do it."

This self-produced pamphlet resulting from the Group's many meetings, and indeed forming a fairly integral part of them, stands as a triumph of bravery, searing honesty and, above all, faith. Its title, taken from one of Caroline's poems, serves as a useful pointer to its purpose: simply to let off a stream of broad emotion about their lives—guilt, love, hatred and much more—that was previously closeted and left unspoken in a shroud of self-doubt.

It cannot have been easy to lay themselves so open. For although they only refer to themselves

by their first names, they are easily recognisable in the Jewish community because of how much they reveal of their background and because of the reproduction of some old family photos. That, they would probably tell you, was of course not the point: their experiences are not necessarily typical (three are daughters of German refugees and talk of a huge 'hole' in their knowledge of the Holocaust that their parents would not talk about, and the fourth is South African), and they do not try to form a definitive statement on what it is like to be the child of a refugee living in Britain. Their pieces are instead touchstones, something to start from when looking at one's own life perhaps, and something that may strike a chord.

Fascinating insights

It would be unfair to paraphrase such personal accounts as Shelley's, Ruth's, Caroline's and Margaret's in so short a space. But it is worth mentioning the many fascinating insights they provide into human fallibility and self-doubt. These pieces are only explorations—it may well be that a few feelings expressed here have since changed—but they are no less valuable because of this.

Especially interesting is the expression of the common belief and terrible guilt that they, as

young Jewish women, were not worthy survivors of the Holocaust—the feeling of 'why do I have the right to be alive, just because I was born when I was?'. Ruth in particular felt that any enjoyment she gained from life was an unnecessary bonus, that life was enough in itself: "Once," she writes, "when I saw a beautiful sunset, I averted my eyes as I felt that it was too wonderful for me." And running throughout the pamphlet is a feeling of cold exclusion—the harsh reality that the children of refugees may never feel fully 'at home' or integrated in their lifetime.

The formation of the Jewish Women's History Group meant that here at last was a chance for these four to examine their lives to such uncertain depths and pull up emotions that, even if misplaced, would not be laughed at. In publishing their feelings they have exposed themselves even more, and the inspiration this might provide for others is hard to overestimate.

SIMON GARFIELD

ANNIVERSARY FOR HEINZ GALINSKI

Heinz Galinski, the ever-active head of the Jewish community in Berlin, recently celebrated the 35th anniversary of the day he took up the post. Then aged 35, Mr. Galinski was the only survivor of his entire family and he was taking on the chairmanship of a Jewry which was still suffering from the experiences it had passed through. It was much smaller than today's Berlin community, and it faced the doubts and difficulties of a partitioned city. It was not long before the new chairman proved himself equal to his task, and he has gone on in the same vein, regardless of changes in the political make-up of Berlin.

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OBITUARIES

RABBI WERNER VAN DER ZYL

An outstanding figure in Britain's Reform Judaism, Rabbi Werner Van der Zyl, died a few weeks ago in Palma, Majorca, at the age of 81. Born in Schwerte, he gained his rabbinical qualification in 1933 at the Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums in Berlin and his doctorate at the University of Giessen. Until 1939 he ministered to the Jewish community of Berlin, but in that year he came to Britain, spending 18 months in the Kitchener Camp. After his release he worked for a time at Bloomsbury House.

In 1943, Dr. Van der Zyl was appointed rabbi of the North Western Synagogue, where he remained until 1958, when he became senior minister at the West London Synagogue. After his retirement ten years later, he moved to Majorca and acted there as unofficial minister to the Jewish community.

Among his many activities, perhaps the most notable was Rabbi Van der Zyl's directorship of the Leo Baeck College, a name adopted at his suggestion for the Jewish theological college in London. He was life president of the Association of Synagogues in Great Britain and life vice-president of the World Union of Progressive Judaism. One mark of the appreciation of his former pupils is the annual Van der Zyl lecture established in his honour.

MRS. RECHA FREIER

Mrs. Recha Freier the founder (with Henrietta Szold) of Children and Youth Aliyah, has died in Jerusalem at the age of 94. The wife of a Berlin rabbi, her remarkable prescience caused her to establish the movement a year before Hitler came to power and there can be no doubt that her efforts saved thousands, indeed hundreds of thousands, of children. She herself said that the movement had been conceived as early as 1930, not as a simple rescue operation, but to bring children to the Land of Israel "to build and to be built". Mrs. Freier left Berlin in 1941 to continue her work in Palestine. In her later years, she helped to create the organisation "Testimonium", to create music expressing Jewish heroism and belief. A few months ago she personally opened the 50-year-celebration conference of Youth Aliyah.

PROFESSOR LEOPOLD LINDTBERG

One of the foremost figures in the German-speaking theatre, Professor Leopold Lindtberg, has died in Switzerland at the age of 81. Born in Vienna, he studied at the University there before leaving for Berlin, where his stage debut came in 1924. Two years later he began theatrical directing and soon became associated with Piscator in the years of the Weimar Republic. Expelled from Germany in 1933, he spent the whole period of the Third Reich in Zürich, working in the Schauspielhaus. He was also a pioneer of the Swiss film industry.

After the war, Professor Lindtberg directed many works outside Switzerland. The Vienna Burgtheater, the Salzburg festival, the Habimah Theatre in Israel and London's Covent Garden all benefitted from his artistry. Only a few months ago, he produced "The American Woman Pope", by the German-Argentine playwright Esther Vilar, a work which has attracted large audiences.

MEINHARD MOSES

Dr. Meinhard Moses, who died recently, was a member of the Kartell Juedischer Verbindungen, the Zionist Student Organisation in pre-Nazi Germany, from his early days. He came from a large family—10 children—who originally lived in Bromberg and moved to the West after the 1918 War. This lively crowd was one of the enduring influences on his own life. He was very sociable, a gifted entertainer and musician and a committed Zionist.

He emigrated to Israel in 1933. It was a difficult situation for him and his family, as for so many others, before he could establish himself as a dentist, the profession he had practised in Germany. After the death of his wife and his retirement he joined his daughter in this country in 1958.

Meinhard Moses was one of the most generous personalities in good and bad times. His birthday parties were famous and all his friends regret that he could not celebrate his hundredth birthday, which he had hoped to do. He died in his 97th year, physically weakened, but mentally alert, witty and always in good spirits.

Our sympathy goes out to his devoted daughter Karla and her husband Frank who looked after him for many years. A.F.

PASTOR NIEMOELLER

Pastor Niemoeller, whose death was announced in the previous issue, was a courageous fighter against the Nazi regime. He resisted the introduction of the racial doctrines into the Protestant Church by the prohibition of the appointment of "non-Aryan" ministers and became a co-founder of the so-called "Bekennende Kirche" which opposed the interference of the State in religious matters.

His sermons in the Dahlem "Annenkirche" attracted a large audience of congregants inside his parish and further afield. In 1937 he was sentenced to imprisonment for "malicious undermining of the National Socialist state". After his release from jail he had to endure eight years in the Sachsenhausen and Dachau concentration camps, from which he was liberated by the victorious American troops.

ROMANESQUE ART

The rich cultural life and technically superb artistic work of the 11th and 12th centuries in England is abundantly displayed in the exhibition of "English Romanesque Art 1066-1200" at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, SE1 (until 8 July 1984). After the Norman invasion of England in 1066, the invaders (monarchs, aristocracy, prince-bishops and great religious orders) rapidly became artistic patrons on the grand scale. Surviving examples of their cathedrals, abbeys and parish churches are scattered throughout the land and are illustrated in the exhibition by a specially commissioned audio-visual programme. This apart, the exhibition contains over 80 illuminated manuscripts, including the great Winchester, Lambeth and Bury Bibles, stained glass and sculpture from 40 cathedrals and parish churches, the ivory Bury St Edmunds Cross which has been lent by the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and the Gloucester gilt Candlestick which has left the Victoria and Albert Museum for the first time since its acquisition in 1861. There are hundreds of superb exhibits to feast the eye, but of particular interest are Josephus's Jewish Antiquities, and the exhibited page from the Walsingham Bible.

ELLA BERGMANN-MICHEL

Collages and Drawings 1917-1931

Ella Bergmann-Michel was born in Paderborn, Westphalia and very early in her career became interested in abstract forms. She studied in Weimar and, although associated for some time with the Bauhaus, she left Weimar in 1922 because the dogmatic spirit of that famous institution under Walter Gropius was not to her liking. It was in that year that she started making paintings and collages using colour spectrums which she herself constructed from shaded papers. Later she developed surrealistic tendencies mixed with constructivist principles.

The fascinating collection of her early work being shown at Annely Juda Fine Art, 11 Tottenham Mews, London W1 (until 7 July 1984) is one of a series of exhibitions of this artist's work mounted by the Gallery, usually in association with that of her husband, Robert Michel. In this exhibition a number of her early works are on display which have never before been shown. They are well worth looking at. ALICE SCHWAB

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PETER C. RICKENBACK

MISS MAISIE MACCOBY

The death of Miss Maisie Maccooby was announced recently. During the war she served with the American Red Cross and was directly responsible for saving the lives of many children whose parents had perished at Dachau concentration camp. In her later years, Miss Maccooby did much to preserve the fame of her grandfather, Rabbi Chaim-Zundel Maccooby, the Kamnitzer Magid.

ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN

One of the many refugees who won success in British business, Arthur (Turi) Goldstein died recently in Cambridge. He was 82. Born in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, Mr. Goldstein came to England in 1938, but his first wife, who was to have followed him, perished in the Holocaust. In Cambridge, Turi Goldstein began to manufacture electric appliances and, together with his second wife Halina (herself a Polish survivor),

set up the successful company Warmex, in which he earned the reputation of a model employer.

MARCEL JANCO

The death of Marcel Janco, a founding father of Dadaism, was recently announced in Tel Aviv. He was 89. The Romanian-born painter came to Palestine in 1941 and was recognised as one of Israel's leading artists. He also founded the artists' colony at Ein Hod.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge, but voluntary donations would be appreciated. Texts should reach us by the 10th of the preceding month.

Acknowledgement

Bach:—Warmest thanks from Hilde Bach to all her friends for their visits, phone calls, cards and gifts received after her accident.

Births

Gordon:—Harold and Eva Gordon (Leicester) and Dick Kellett (The Hague, Holland) announce the arrival of another grandchild, a second daughter to Dr. Michael and Pat Gordon (Reading).

Reed:—Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Reed are pleased to announce the birth of their second grandson, Adam Scott. 97, Cairnfield Avenue, NW2.

Rickenback:—Bobby and Peter Rickenback take pleasure in announcing the birth of their daughter Jessica Laura, a sister for Antonia Jill. 14, Rosslyn Hill, London, NW3 1PF.

Deaths

Driesen:—Miss Meta H. E. Driesen died peacefully on 29 March, aged 93. She will be missed by us. Helmut and Eva.

Joachim:—Else Joachim (widow of the late Dr. K. K. Joachim) died suddenly, but peacefully on 12 April, aged 75. Much loved and deeply

mourned by her daughter Irene, son-in-law Philip, grandchildren David and Jonathan, sister Grete and all her friends.

Karpeles:—Mr. Paul Karpeles, Reigate, formerly Teplitz-Schoenau and Leicester, passed away on 12 April. He will be sadly missed by his many friends.

Schafer:—Valerie Schafer, née Landsmann, passed away peacefully shortly before her 90th birthday. Greatly mourned and lovingly remembered by Hans and Kitty Schafer (London), Gerti and Simon Erol (Paris), her grandchildren Susan Walsh (Toronto), Sandrine, Pierre (Paris), Dany (Vienna) and great-grandchildren Steven and Debra (Toronto) and Olivier (Carnac, Brittany), all their families, many friends here and in many other parts of this world.

CLASSIFIED

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Personal

WIDOWER, early 70s, in North London seeks sincere lady for genuine companionship. Box 1029.

PSYCHOANALYSIS. Adult male considering this for himself would welcome initial discussion with qualified analyst. Advertiser (stable, active, own small business) finds self-programming not very productive, thinks free-association could be more so. Lives Swiss Cottage area. Box 1030.

ATTRACTIVE WIDOW, 61, NW London, seeks refined gentleman for companionship to share interests in music, art, bridge, friends. Box 1032.

INFORMATION REQUIRED**Personal Enquiry**

BRANDT. Would anyone having information about Herta Erika Brandt, born in Katowice on 9 April 1930 and Jerzy Włodzimierz Brandt, born in Bielsko on 26 October 1934, last known address in 1947 Stanmore, Middlesex, please contact the International Tracing Service, D-3548 Arolsen, West Germany, quoting Ref. No. T/D 1 113 487.

OREMLAND. Becolel Oremland spent several months in London, in transit to New Zealand, around March, 1937. He was a 10-year-old refugee from Bialystok, Poland, and may have spent some time with his mother's relative, Yente Frost, in London. I am searching for any relatives or information. Please contact Claire Oremland, Telephone 01-794 5989.

SIEMONSOHN. Werner Siemonsohn, formerly of 25, Ashdale Grove, Stanmore. Present address required by Mrs. Montag, 91, Bittacy Rise, Mill Hill, London, NW7. Tel. 349 0376.

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B'NAI BRITH MUSIC FESTIVAL

The B'nai Brith Music Festival, the first major festival in this country devoted to Jewish music, will be held between 17 June and 15 July. There will be seven Central London concerts in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Purcell Room, St. John's, Smith Square, and Central Hall, Westminster. The music will range from Ancient Prayer Chants, through vocal, choral, instrumental and orchestral music to oratorio and opera. There will be synagogue services in diverse traditions, Hasidic music, jazz, illustrated talks and fringe events. Some of the events will take place in the London suburbs, in the home counties, and in the provinces. Among the patrons are the Israeli cultural attaché, Malcolm Williamson CBE, Master of the Queen's Music, Wilfred Josephs, Heather Harper CBE, and Emanuel Hurwitz CBE. Detailed information is available from B'nai Brith Music Festival Box Office, Hillel House, 1/2 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

ASCHAFFENBURG VICTIM REINSTATED

In the autumn of 1945 the Allied Control Council proclaimed that all judicial sentences passed under the Nazi regime for political, racial or religious reasons were null and void. But if such verdicts would have affected Nazi and non-Nazi alike, they were left in force. This is why it is only now that the name of Arnold Rosenthal of Aschaffenburg has been rehabilitated.

Mr. Rosenthal, owner of the Bankhaus Rosenthal, helped the Jews of Aschaffenburg to sell shares during the Third Reich and so enabled them to emigrate. In 1936, after long-continued Nazi pressure on the bank, Mr. Rosenthal, his wife Thelma and their nephew Eduard Gunzenhauser were arrested on currency charges. They did not face a court for three years; when they did, Mrs. Rosenthal was acquitted and freed, Eduard Gunzenhauser received a one-year sentence and Arnold Rosenthal was sent to prison for five years. His wife elected to stay in Germany to be near her husband rather than joining their son Erich in

Britain. Both perished in the war years.

Currency offences were not covered by the Control Commission's proclamation and Erich Rosenthal was keenly aware of the stain attaching to his father's name. He refused to attend a gathering of former Aschaffenburg Jews and campaigned vigorously for an annulment of the sentence. This he has now received from the West German Parliament, which also declared that Arnold Rosenthal had acted with selfless courage and was worthy of the highest respect. Erich Rosenthal has declared that he will join the next party of Aschaffenburg Jews to visit the city.

AFFALTRACH CONTACTS

The Protestant Vicar's Office of Affaltrach in the Heilbronn Kreis would like to establish contact with former Jewish citizens of Affaltrach and Eschenau. A group of Affaltrach residents are taking good care of the pretty village synagogue and assembling the history of their Jewish former fellow-citizens. Interested persons can write to: Pfarrer Immanuel J.A. Nau, Am Ordenschloss 5, 7104 Oberslum-Affaltrach, West Germany.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

Old Timers. Munich actor *Ernst Faber*, 93, is now appearing as "Old Gobbo" in Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice." *Fred Liewehr*, 75, who has just had his 50th anniversary celebration at the Vienna Burgtheater, has been connected with the "Burg" since the early Thirties when he was called upon to succeed young Alfred Lohner, whose sudden departure gave Liewehr the chance to play all major roles from classical heroes (Leander, Don Carlos, Egmont) to modern character parts. Liewehr's musical talent also brought him fame as an operetta tenor at the Vienna Volksoper where he was Eisenstein in "Fledermaus" and Danilo, and where—only last year—he played Colonel Pickering in a revival of "My Fair Lady." At present Liewehr is in Molnar and Hofmannsthal comedies and as busy as ever.

Memories. Maximilian Schell directed a film about the "Great Dietrich" and called it "Marlene." There are no new appearances of the actress, but scenes from her old achievements, supplemented by interviews and talks. Leonie Mann-Askenazy, daughter of the late Heinrich Mann, now lives in retirement in Bolzano (South Tyrol).

Gruendgens Films. Films to be shown at the Goethe Institute, 50 Princes Gate, London SW7, during this month include "Faust" with Gustaf Gruendgens as Mephisto and Will Quadflieg as Faust (June 13th) and "Das Glas Wasser" with Gruendgens, Rudolf Forster and Hilde Krahle on June 18th. Performances start at 7.30 p.m.

Birthdays. Willy Kollo, composer and author, son of Berlin legend Walter Kollo, is 80. German film actor *Paul Dahlke* and Berlin disease *Ellen Frank* also had their 80th birthdays. *Viorica Ursuleac*,

Rumanian-born soprano, wife of the late Clemens Krauss, celebrated her 85th birthday. Appearing at all major opera houses, (she was at Covent Garden in 1934), Ursuleac specialized in Richard Strauss parts in which she scored her greatest successes. *Franco Corelli*, a celebrated tenor who retired very early, and who—some 20 years ago—was often compared to Caruso, has reached the age of 60.

Obituary. *Leopold Lindtberg*, one of the most respected directors of the German-speaking stage and screen, has died in Sils Maria at the age of 81. He was born in Austria, left Germany in 1933 and later settled in Switzerland where he became leading producer at the Zürich Schauspielhaus, and where he was instrumental in presenting many works that were forbidden in Nazi Germany. A longer note appears elsewhere in this issue.

S.B.

VENICE AWASH WITH WORDS

Venice Preserv'd by Thomas Otway.
Directed by Peter Gill. In repertory at the National Theatre (Lyttelton).

It was brave of the National Theatre to revive Otway's 'Venice Preserv'd'. They have staged it very handsomely, with an atmospheric multi-purpose set that suits the play's brooding themes very well.

The main theme is a conspiracy against the

venal and corrupt senate of Venice, and conspiracy was still a topical issue in 1682 when the play was first staged shortly after the excitement of the 'Popish Plot' hoax. Pierre, an honest soldier who has served Venice well, leads the conspiracy, and he draws into it Jaffier, an idealistic and impoverished young gentleman who has married Belvidera, daughter of a senator who has disowned her for having married against his wishes.

Urged on by the naïve innocence of Belvidera, Jaffier betrays the conspirators to the senate in exchange for a promise that they will not be executed. Jaffier is pardoned, but the senate reneges on its promise to spare the others, much to the surprise of the hopelessly naïve Jaffier, who expiates his betrayal by acceding to Pierre's request that he be killed before he is tortured, after which Jaffier despatches himself, and Belvidera finding them, expires from shock.

Thus foreshortened, it sounds like melodrama, and that is indeed what it is, rather than proper tragedy. Michael Pennington as Jaffier, Ian McKellen as Pierre and Jane Lapotaire as Belvidera are all first-rate actors who make the most of Otway's turgid rhetoric, but are defeated by the inherent weakness of the text, which will not let us suspend our disbelief. It is like an opera without music, and the music should at least have been in the words.

The comic scenes, which used to be censored out, were very well done by Hugh Paddick (as a masochistic senator) and Stephanie Beacham (as his sadistic mistress). Those scenes had the spark of life Otway had not been able to infuse elsewhere. By putting so much talent and skill into the presentation of this Restoration tragedy, the National Theatre has enabled us to assess properly the surviving qualities of a bookshelf classic.

M.S.

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