

AJR INFORMATION

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William Guttman

SURVIVING IN BERLIN

Some Remarkable Escapes

All over Nazi-dominated Europe, varying numbers of Jews succeeded in avoiding the fate of their unfortunate fellow-Jews and thwarting the plans of their persecutors thanks to good luck and their will to survive, but above all to the help of Gentiles.

The attitudes of these people, their humanity, courage and heroic willingness to make sacrifices stands out like a beacon in the darkness of those days.

Berlin was no exception—the city where the final solution had actually been decided upon and the centre of its organisation; but where there was also a tradition of close relations between many Jewish circles and their Gentile fellow citizens and where, indeed, Nazism had had greater difficulties in sinking deep roots than in most other parts of Germany. The exact number of Berliners who thus escaped from the clutches of their persecutors is difficult to assess. It may have been hundreds or even thousands.

In his book *The Last Jews in Berlin* by Leonard Gross. Sidgwick & Jackson. £12.95) Mr. Gross conveys a vivid and comprehensive picture of all aspects of this miraculous survival, the political and historical background, the human element and the "mere" mechanics of their salvation, with all the intricacies, ingenuity and complications involved. But he did not aim at writing a scholarly account and analytical study of those events. Instead, he has chosen a handful of survivors and traced in great detail their path through the vicissitudes of their ordeal to ultimate liberation—parts of a mosaic, as it were, that combine to give a comprehensive picture.

Mr. Gross is a journalist and novelist and his concern to offer his readers "a good story" has influenced the form and presentation of his book, not entirely to its advantage. Most, but not all, of the colourful details help to make the narrative vivid; the use of verbatim reporting of conversations long past and never recorded (including a

fanciful little speech by one protagonist to his pet dog) always seems questionable, and faulty proof reading does not help.

Particularly irritating is the device of splitting chronologically the individual stories of the protagonists, interspersing them with each other and ending each chapter with a real cliff-hanger. For instance, if one of the protagonists is captured at the end of one chapter, the reader has to get through 20 pages of another story before being told what happened to him subsequently. Apart from straining the reader's credulity, this seems a cheap way of heightening tension when dealing with a haunting and terrifying reality.

Nevertheless, there is no reason not to accept Mr. Gross's assurance that these stories are factually true and that his own researches and his interviews with the protagonists (whose real names are given and some of them, at least, are still alive) guarantee their authenticity. Indeed one knows from other sources that in that atmosphere of surrealist nightmare, the most incredible events could be true.

Thus, seemingly unbelievable incidents related in this book, where sheer bluff and the enormous bravado of a helper saved a prospective victim chime in with the case, known to this writer, where a lady in charge of the administration of a nursing home which offered shelter to a number of Jews, just countered an ominous and dangerous inquiry by the Gestapo about these people simply by sending back the letter with the laconic remark: does not concern us—and the police let the matter rest.

Remember the
SELF AID CONCERT
at the Queen Elizabeth Hall
on Sunday, 13th November 1983
at 3 p.m.

The cases illustrate the typical conditions and problems of life underground—finding the basic needs of existence: money, food, ration cards and shelter—to cope with the psychological torment of life in hiding when even the use of a lavatory might be a matter of life or death. And then there was, of course, the greatest problem of them all, avoiding recognition and capture. If falling into the hands of the police was an ever-present risk, it was equally dangerous to meet an old friend who, by his reaction, could give you away in all good faith; and worst of all, there were Jewish informers who, for money and their own salvation, were in a good position to worm their way into the confidence of fellow Jews in order to betray them.

But at the other end of the scale there were men and women, Gentiles, who with courage, ingenuity and selfless devotion helped the underground Jews in a million ways to get through their ordeal. They are the true heroes of this story, sometimes even initially reluctant heroes, coming from various backgrounds but united by their simple conviction that "something had to be done" to counter a barbaric crime.

However critical one may be of the way the book is written, it certainly serves a good purpose if it helps to popularise this great story and to gain it a wider readership than a more sober and scholarly account would do.

"JEWISH SWITZERLAND" RECALLED

The Berlin History Workshop in Schöneberg has, like many other German organisations, recently arranged an exhibition as a reminder of events fifty years ago. The exhibition contains a section on the fate of the 16,000 Jews who were living in the area in 1933, mostly in the district jokingly called "the Jewish Switzerland". Among their pathetic relics are official police orders for the unsealing of flats owned by deported Jews or those who had committed suicide.

VILLAGE TRACED EX-CITIZENS

Although it took several years of sustained effort, the village of Efringen-Kirchen (near Freiburg) traced eight former Jewish inhabitants and invited them to a reunion. Among the guests was Mr. Rosenberger, the last cantor and Jewish teacher in Kirchen.

HAMBURG PUPILS' RESEARCH

A moving booklet on the fate of the Jewish teacher Julia Cohn, who had taught there until she was dismissed in 1933, has been written and published by the pupils of the Meerweinstrasse 28 Comprehensive School (Gesamtschule) in Hamburg.

As part of a project on 'Daily Life Under the Nazis', the pupils had chosen 'Persecution of the Jews' as their subject, and decided to find out what had happened at their own school in those days. They discovered that there was a Jewish teacher, Julia Cohn, who had taught there from 1930 until she was dismissed in 1933 under paragraph 3 (1) of the Law for the 'Re-establishment of the Status of Public Servants' of 7 April 1933 ('Non-aryan officials are to be retired'). The pupils then carried out laborious research and discovered that Julia Cohn and her husband Jacob had been deported to Riga on 6 December 1941, where they were killed. The whole long list of that transport is reproduced photographically in the booklet, with many other documents, and the pupils noted that on the list some people were seventy years old, and there was also a child of thirteen.

They also learned that Julia Cohn had a son who had been sent to England, and by persistence, and with the help of the AJR, they traced and found our member, Paul Cohn, who helped to clarify various points. All the relevant documents are clearly reproduced, together with the pupils' comments, edited by their tutor Rüdiger Wersebe.

PALESTINE ARCHAEOLOGY DISPLAYED

Some sixty years ago, Sir Flinders Petrie was carrying out pioneer archaeology in Egypt, and building around him a small student team, the "Petrie Pups". The last of this team, Olga Tufnell, now in her late seventies, began her career as secretary to Petrie's wife but once she had entered into the field of archaeology—despite a total absence of formal training—her inborn talent drove her on.

Fifty years ago, Olga Tufnell began to excavate the ruins of Royal Lachish, the city conquered by Joshua. In 1938 she took the collection of finds and photographs from the site back to London and for 13 years devoted herself to documenting the material. Her 4-volume report is regarded as a pre-eminent source book for Palestinian archaeology. The British Museum, which once refused her material for "lack of space", is currently displaying part of the collection.

After 45 years Olga Tufnell has revisited the site of Lachish as the guest of the University of Tel Aviv. While there she was welcomed by a group of 200 Israeli archaeologists, happy to acknowledge her abiding influence on their scholarship.

Since the British Museum acquired the Lachish collection, it has been claimed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation on the grounds that "this is our heritage, this is what we are fighting for". The Museum's Deputy Director, however, says, "As far as we are concerned, we acquired the collection from its rightful owners... The movement of populations in the last three million years has been such that almost anybody could have had a relative involved at any place, in the past."

HIS IDEAS CHANGED OUR WORLD

Printed circuits are all about us today from the toasters in our kitchens to the aircraft over our heads. They seem almost alarmingly modernistic, yet they were first thought of nearly 50 years ago by Dr. Paul Eisler. A Viennese Jew with a Socialist background, he was unable to find work in Austria and in 1936 he came to England. Without a work permit, his situation was desperately poor but in a boarding house room in Hampstead he was working on his new idea—printed radio circuits. Yet he could not find a manufacturer interested in the novel concept and it was not until 1942 that it was taken up by the American armed forces and used in sensors implanted into anti-aircraft shells.

Even then Dr. Eisler's brainchild brought disappointment, for some companies later claimed that printed circuits were such an obvious idea that they need not acknowledge his prior right in the invention. Lawsuits ensued, eventually decided by the House of Lords in Dr. Eisler's favour. But meanwhile he was taking out patents on a wide range of inventions, including games and food packaging. His flow of ideas has scarcely diminished even now, when he is in his seventies. Paul Eisler's most recent device, a cooling system, is currently being developed and will probably be marketed by an Israeli firm.

AUSTRIAN SOCIAL INSURANCE

Es ist allgemein bekannt, dass diejenigen, die nach dem 1. Juli 1927 entweder eine Versicherungszeit (Beschäftigungszeit) von einem Monat oder eine Ersatzzeit von einem Monat erworben haben, durch Anschluss an die sogenannte Emigrationszeit (bis zum 31. März 1959) eine Sozialversicherungspension erlangen können.

Es besteht aber die Möglichkeit, dass auch Personen, die vor dem 1. Juli 1927 geheiratet und ihren Beruf aufgegeben haben, auf Grund des Gegenseitigkeitsvertrages zwischen Österreich und dem Vereinigten Königreich, eine sogenannte Teilpension erlangen können. Voraussetzung ist allerdings, dass sie nach ihrer Auswanderung in dem Vereinigten Königreich gearbeitet haben und dadurch die nach dem Österreichischen Sozialversicherungsgesetz erforderliche Wartezeit und die sogenannte Eindritteldeckung erworben haben.

Nähere Auskünfte erteilt das United Restitution Office (URO) 183-189 Finchley Road, London N.W.3. (Tel. 01-328-0021) C.I.K.

WRITER FOUND

Readers who saw out item in the August issue asking for the whereabouts of the Prague writer Hans Klaus may be interested to know that soon after that issue appeared the daughter of John Klaus (as he is now known) walked into the AJR office and informed us that he is alive and well and living in North London. Professor Jürgen Born will now be able to pursue his inquiries about Kafka and his circle with Mr. Klaus.

LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust has received the following legacies: From the estate of the late Miss C. F. Reizenstein £2,500 (interim); from the estate of the late Mrs. Kathe Tilsiter £310 and from the estate of the late Mrs. Magda Szanto £6160.

"JEWS EXECUTED BY DUTCH RESISTANCE"

The Amsterdam paper "Nieuw Israelitisch Weekblad" recently published reports of a little-known aspect of the German occupation of Holland—six cases in which Jews who had been kept in hiding were "liquidated". Two names were given—William and Hanna Herz, German-Jewish refugees who had carried on a fish business in Amersfoort and then moved on to Friesland. The host family found the couple a burden and they were shifted to another village, but there too they were regarded as presenting too great a risk. On the pretext that they were being taken elsewhere, the Herz couple were invited to get into a car; there they were shot and their bodies thrown into a lake. This episode took place in 1944.

A leader of the Resistance, Pieter Wybenga, confirmed the paper's report. He himself, a strict Calvinist and holder of a Yad Vashem commendation, had personally executed two Jews, but he felt that the deed had been necessary: "We had no other choice. Thousands of human lives were being endangered. In order to save the many persecuted Jews living in hiding, as well as their helpers, we were obliged to kill certain Jews".

Mr. Wybenga maintained that no one who had not lived through that time could imagine the difficulties involved in saving Jews. In Friesland alone, the Underground organisation had kept 1,800 of them safe during the occupation and, throughout the Netherlands, about 25,000 Jews had survived the war. He had a great admiration for the moral courage of the Jews who withstood their almost intolerable situation, but there was a continual danger that one or two traitors could bring the whole Resistance operation to catastrophe.

The two people whom Wybenga killed were a pimp and a prostitute from Amsterdam. They had formerly been married and met each other again in Westerbork transit camp. Both managed to jump out of the train on the way to Auschwitz and they were helped by the Underground to find shelter. But, fatally, they were hidden in the same house; they quarrelled unendingly, the man twice trying to strangle the woman. The position was so unbearable that there was no option but to shoot the man and secretly bury him. The woman was lodged in a tiny village where over 100 Jews had found refuge. They were quite safe, Wybenga said, until this woman arrived. Then she started to threaten that she would betray her host (who also later received a Yad Vashem mark of honour) and all the people in the house. She had actually started out to do this when she was enticed into a car by a Resistance man and shot.

The "Nieuw Israelitisch Weekblad" demanded why these executions and others had been kept secret so long and asked how many other Jews had been killed in this way. However, Professor Louis de Jong, the Jewish author of the standard multi-volume work "The Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Second World War", strongly deprecates this attitude. His own series describes five similar cases of execution in Friesland and speaks of "perhaps a few dozen" others. In his view, the necessity for these killings has not been sufficiently stressed or understood and he points out that hundreds of non-Jews were "liquidated" by the Resistance movement because they represented a danger to its organisation and members.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

ACCUSED SS-MAN POISONED

A Sicherheitsdienst officer in Poitiers during World War II, Richard-Wilhelm Friese faced charges relating to the deportation of French Jews to the death camps of Auschwitz and Sobibor. Rather than face trial in a Bonn court this autumn, Friese committed suicide by drinking weed-killer.

Another trial scheduled to be held in Bonn is that of Dr. Helmut Ruehl, who is charged with having performed medical experiments on gypsies at Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp. Dr. Ruehl, a Luftwaffe physician during the war, was sentenced to death in absentia by a French court in 1952.

JEWISH SOLDIERS REMEMBERED

The Military History Research Authority in West Germany has recently arranged for its exhibition "German-Jewish Soldiers, 1914-1945" to tour at least ten German cities. Normally seen at Rastatt, where it raised great interest on its first showing three years ago, the exhibition was initiated by a Jewish war widow, Frau Ruth Waldmann of Mainz, who presented her collection of family documents to the Research Authority. German soldiers stationed locally are encouraged to visit the display and eyewitnesses speak on their personal experiences and memories of military service by Jews.

A STROLL THROUGH THE JUDENGASSE

Preparations for the Jewish Museum planned in Frankfurt a.M. are continuing, the latest exhibit being a one-foot high model of the old ghetto as it would have appeared in the eighteenth century. When the model is complete, it is intended that visitors shall "take a stroll" through the streets with the help of a telescope, to see the minute details of the old houses which have been faithfully reproduced.

The museum has lately acquired the collection of illustrations amassed by the writer Adolf Diamant, including pictures of many vanished German synagogues.

RE-ISSUE OF KITZINGEN HISTORY

In connection with two exhibitions this autumn on the former Jewish community of Kitzingen, a new edition of Naphtali Bamberg's "Geschichte der Juden von Kitzingen" has been issued. The work was first published in 1908, and can be obtained by application to the Förderverein ehemalige Synagoge Kitzingen, Gisela Bamberg, Weg am Fuchsstück 6, 8714 Wiesentheid.

SOUTH TYROL HARBOURS CRIMINAL

While under sentence of execution for his part in tortures at the concentration camp of Terezin, Anthon Malloth lived in South Tyrol for nearly 30 years. He was condemned to death by a Czech court after the Second World War and it was even stated that he had been executed, but in fact he escaped into Italy. In 1975 Simon Wiesenthal, suspecting that Malloth was living in Merano, sent a small money order to his presumed address there. The order was cashed and Wiesenthal made use of the receipt as part of the documentation sent to the West German and Italian governments. However, Malloth got wind of a possible deportation order and slipped away. His wife and daughter are still in South Tyrol, but refuse to reply to questioning. It is thought that he may have gone abroad, but there is a theory that he is living in a peasant hut near Merano.

BAYREUTH SYNAGOGUE (NEARLY) RE-OPENED

Conductors at the Bayreuth Festival this year, with its Solti-Hall "Ring" production, included Sir Georg Solti, Daniel Barenboim and James Levine. Sir Georg recalled that an almost-forgotten synagogue existed in the city and decided that he, with the other two Jewish conductors and some music critics, should organise a Friday night service in the neglected building. Bayreuth's police chief was approached and agreed to open the synagogue. Unfortunately nothing came of the idea, for a problem of replacing the missing Siegfried meant that the Opera House was plunged into sudden crisis. However, Sir Georg hopes for better luck at next year's Festival.

NEUWIED UNVEILS MEMORIAL

There are no longer any Jewish citizens of Neuwied on the Rhine, where for nearly 200 years a synagogue stood until it was destroyed in the November Pogrom of 1938. A memorial stone has recently been unveiled on the site of the historic building, in tribute to Neuwied's Jewish citizens murdered under the Hitler regime.

NAZI RECORDS BANNED

The High Court of Münster has banned the sale of Nazi songs and speeches as recorded by a firm in Liechtenstein called "Documentary Series". The discs and tapes have been on sale in Germany for several years, distributed in some cases by neo-Nazi groups.

FRANKFURT'S LINKS WITH ISRAEL

Relationships between Frankfurt-am-Main and Israel have grown increasingly closer in the past few years, as shown by the fact that in 1975 there were 400 former Frankfurt citizens living in Israel, while today there are over 2,000. Exchanges of sports groups, representatives of the police and fire services, footballers, school parties, the universities and professional groups are a regular feature, while exhibitions of work by Frankfurt and Israeli artists are often seen in each other's country. Frankfurt's contacts with its twin towns Lyons, Birmingham and Milan are quite overshadowed by its links with Israel.

BRILON'S NEW MEMORIAL

Brilon, Westphalia, has unveiled a memorial on the site of the former synagogue in honour of its former Jewish citizens. Seventy-five Jews lived in the town before 1933, but only a few survived. Two members of the pre-Hitler community—one of them a woman of 91—attended the ceremony.

MUSIC PROPAGANDA EXPLORED

The "Gruppe Neue Musik Berlin" has presented its concept of Nazi propaganda in music in a programme entitled "Everything Goes Better with Music". Threaded through with half-century old melodies and quotations from Nazi writings delivered over a loudspeaker, the performance also touched on the ambiguous attitude of some artists contrasted with political resistance expressed in music.

"FASCINATING ISRAEL" IN FRANKFURT

The largest exhibition about Israel ever mounted in Germany was held this autumn in the Airport Gallery of the Frankfurt a.M. aerodrome. Entitled "Fascinating Israel", it was organised by the German-Israeli Society and depicted the history of Israel and of Jewry, the life of the people and the links between Israel and Western Germany. The exhibition site occupied 2,500 square metres and included films and illustrated lectures.

"JEWS' LUDO" MAKER CHARGED

The producers of "Jews' Ludo" have been charged with incitement to racial hatred by the Zweibrücken authorities. The "game" (mentioned in our August issue), whose motto is "Anyone too stupid to gas six million Jews will have to go on watching 'Holocaust'", was apparently made by a 35-year-old former policeman and his girl friend, both living near Homburg. The accused man gave his profession as "nationalist writer". The state prosecutor believes that these two are the only persons implicated in producing and distributing "Jews' Ludo".

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NEWS HOME NEWS

STAMPS AT THE WIENER LIBRARY

A reception was held on October 25 to mark the deposition on indefinite loan at the Wiener Library of the late Eric Colebeck's philatelic collection on the theme of The Holocaust. The Judaica Philatelic Society were co-hosts with the Wiener Library, and Rabbi Hugo Gryn spoke. Mrs. Colebeck placed her late husband's valuable collection at the Wiener Library to make it available to historians and philatelists alike. Hundreds of stamps commemorating people and events have been assembled in large albums and annotated in great detail.

"HAPPY RETURNS" FOR HALLGARTEN'S

The well-known wine firm of Hallgarten recently held a wine-tasting to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its establishment in Britain. Fritz Hallgarten came to this country in 1933 and was the first man to import German chateau-bottled wine here. But in his early years, German businessmen tried to blacken his name, a tactic foiled by "Bepo" Salvie, formerly of Cockburn's. Mr. Salvie, one of the firm's first customers in Britain, not only backed Fritz Hallgarten but even went himself to Germany to help other members of the family to escape from the Third Reich. Naturally he was an honoured guest at the celebration.

POW WITNESS AGAINST HITLER

An eyewitness has come forward with his answer to the specious question "Did Hitler know about the Final Solution?". Norman Kitchener Hutchings of Smethwick, who was captured at Dunkirk, told the "Birmingham Evening Mail" that from a stationary train in which he was being conveyed to hospital he had seen Hitler looking out of another train at a deportation transport. Mr. Hutchings said that there was a huge trainload of Jews: "Although I am no great authority, I knew these people were Jews. Hitler saw what I saw . . . His train was exactly opposite the wagons of a huge train with at least 50 wagons, each containing about 60 unfortunate Jews. Hitler was looking out of his window at the Jews. He must have seen them. Everybody at the station must have seen them. He couldn't have missed seeing them."

CONFESSED TO KILLING HIS WIFE

A 62-year-old former refugee, Bernard Blewis, was devoted to his wife for 40 years, but eventually she became senile and increasingly difficult to live with. At last Mr. Blewis could no longer bear the strain and he killed her. Although for a time he attempted to hide his crime, he later confessed to his daughter. Pleading guilty to manslaughter, he was given a brief sentence which meant that he could immediately go to his daughter's house.

GEORGE ORWELL AND 5744

It appears that George Orwell may have known that the year 1984 had a negative connotation in Hebrew numbering. When he wrote his famous "1984", he thought of various titles—"In the year 2000", "The Last Man in Europe" or even "1948"—until a Jewish friend pointed out that the year 5744 represented the letters "t-sh-m-d" with its accompanying idea of "destruction".

GLUE-SNIFFERS BLAMED FOR VANDALISM

Confronting a flood of vandalism in Jewish cemeteries throughout the country, in Edmonton and elsewhere in Greater London, in Cheshunt and Manchester, the Federation of Synagogues has put forward a scheme for insuring tombstones. Premiums are about £17 per annum and include a fee for washing and maintaining the stone. The United Synagogue also has a tombstone insurance scheme.

Particularly violent damage was caused recently at Edmonton, with stones smashed into small pieces, apparently by hammers. It is by no means clear what type of person is doing this vicious damage. Christian cemeteries also suffer from such vandalism, which could hardly be carried out by children, but requires a certain amount of brute force. Evidence of glue-sniffing in the cemetery at Edmonton has been found and police believe that this practice may have led to the violence to which the shattered and desecrated stones bear witness.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAUBED

The Holocaust memorial in Hyde Park has twice been defaced with paint since it was dedicated. On the first occasion, a quotation—"A lie has no legs"—was written in Hebrew transliterated into Roman letters. As the memorial garden is part of the park, it cannot be fenced off and, short of mounting an all-day guard, no effective protection seems possible.

As a way of saying "Thank You" to all our Voluntary Workers, you are invited to an informal Coffee Party at:

Hannah Karminski House (side entrance), on 7th December, at 3.15 p.m.

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ART FOR ALL TASTES

Of all the exhibitions now open in London, perhaps the most interesting is the *Art of the Avant-Garde in Russia* at the Royal Academy (until 13 November). It comprises a selection from the collection of George Costakis, a Greek citizen born in Moscow who worked first in the Greek and then in the Canadian embassies there. Soon after the Second World War he began to appreciate modern art and, with difficulty, was able to assemble a large collection of works by modern Russian artists, some of whom had abandoned their vocation because of lack of public interest and support.

In 1977 he was allowed to leave Russia in return for giving 80 per cent of his collection to the Tretyakov Gallery, for by then the Russians had learned to appreciate the merit and value of the 7,000 works he had collected. Costakis now lives in Athens—and has himself taken up painting.

Sir Hugh Casson, President of the Royal Academy, writes: "The story of art in Russia in the period immediately following the Russian revolution is one of the most extraordinary episodes in the history of 20th century art. In the years prior to the revolution and in the following decade a remarkable number of outstanding artists, many of them women, emerged, whose energy reflected the utopian optimism of the period." A fully illustrated and documented catalogue (price £12.50) is available.

Annely Juda Fine Art, 11 Tottenham Mews, W1 is also showing modern Russian art. Her exhibition, "A Commemoration of the Van Diemen Exhibition, Berlin 1922" (until 3 December 1983), contains a wealth of pictures of superb quality. The range is somewhat narrower than the Royal Academy exhibition, since the emphasis here has been placed on the Constructivist movement. It is an exhibition of such excellence that it must on no account be missed. The catalogue with 100 illustrations, some in colour, also contains essays by Andrei Nakov, Krystina Passuth, Peter Nisbet and Christina Lodder.

A trip to the Barbican Centre was essential for real stimulation in order to see the retrospective exhibition of the work of Sir Matthew Smith (closed 30 October). He has rightly been called the outstanding personality in modern British Art. His work is vital and spontaneous; his brushwork is sweeping and his colours lush and voluptuous. The catalogue, itself an outstanding technical achievement, cannot do justice to the vibrant warmth of the pictures displayed.

From the Barbican to Leinster Fine Art, 9 Hereford Road, W2 which is showing works by Max Slevogt, Albert Weisgerber and Hans Purman, German impressionists and expressionists, lent by the Modern Gallerie des Saarland Museum, Saarbrücken. The exhibition comprises unfamiliar portraits, landscapes and still lifes by these significant artists from the first part of the twentieth century.

Alice Schwab

MOSLEY'S SON

The younger son of the late Sir Oswald Mosley, Max Mosley is making his mark in the Conservative Party, having acted as chairman of the Regent's Park branch for some time. Mr. Mosley, who says that he has never been antisemitic although he attended some of his father's meetings, is considering joining the Conservative Friends of Israel.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

FRANCE

300 Years of Franco-German Emigration

The cross-linking of German and French emigrants throughout the centuries was the theme of an exhibition held in the Paris Goethe Institute. Exhibits covered the years 1685-1945 and the first emigrants mentioned were the 30,000 Huguenots who fled from France to Germany after Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Another eastward flow was that of the French Royalists who gathered in the Coblenz area after 1789. In contradistinction, German republicans made their way towards France in the years of the Revolution. New researches have shown too, that German workers were driven from their native country and many of them went to France in the depression years of the nineteenth century. Documentation about the wave of refugees from Hitler's Germany was also on show and the exhibition was completed by screening films directed by Fritz Lang and Max Ophuls with another on the pioneer film-maker Lotte Eisner.

New Centres for B'nai B'rith Youth

The B'nai Youth Organisation, which has not been active in Europe since the days of the Third Reich, has recently opened two branches in Paris and Lille. Further bureaux are projected in France, in the towns of Nice, Strasbourg and Nancy.

Deportation Book Escapes Ban

Michel Slitinski, who barely escaped deportation during his youth in France, has overcome an attempt to ban his book "The Papon Affair". Maurice Papon, a minister under President Giscard d'Estaing and secretary-general of the Gironde prefecture in the Vichy period, sought a court injunction against the book, which charges him with personal involvement in the deportation of Jews from France. Formal accusations of crimes against humanity have already been preferred against M. Papon.

"LITTLE SISTERS OF ISRAEL" IN FRANCE

When a French nun, Sister Marie Catherine, visited Israel last year, she found herself unaccountably moved. Telling her mother of her emotions, she was astonished to hear that the family was in fact Jewish and had converted to Catholicism in Hungary in 1938, before Sister Marie Catherine was born, in order to avoid the dangers of Fascism. She also learnt that her mother had been the secretary to Raoul Wallenberg and had successfully bartered for the lives of 440 Jewish children with Adolf Eichmann. With the Church's permission, the nun began to study Judaism, called herself Miriam, attached a Star of David to her rosary and renamed the order of which she is Mother Superior. The convent now houses the "Little Sisters of Israel" and the inmates faithfully observe some Jewish rituals.

MAIZE SWASTIKA IN PRETORIA

The "Protectors of the White Man", who intend to organise a "white man's cultural centre and archives", complete with Third Reich films, right-wing books and classical concerts eschewing Jewish music, seem to boil down to one man, Wolf Toepfer, in Pretoria. Renting a room in a house also used as a kindergarten, he decorated it with swastikas and Nazi posters, played Hitler and Goebbels speeches, and planted maize in the shape of a swastika. The school's owner says that, despite advertising in the racist press, the "Protectors of the White Man" never received any visitors or had any enquiries.

SOUTH AFRICAN SYNAGOGUE BLASTED

Fifty years ago the Temple Israel synagogue in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, was being built. Speakers from its pulpit over the intervening years have included Zeev Vladimir Jabotinsky and Menachim Begin. A Jubilee service was about to be held a few weeks ago, attended by State President Marais Viljoen, when, despite strict security, a limpet bomb exploded and severely damaged the interior of the building. Fortunately, no one was hurt and the Ark and Scrolls of the Law were undamaged. They were removed to Temple Emanu-El, where a substitute service was held in the presence of Mr. Viljoen, the Mayor of Johannesburg and the Administrator of the Transvaal, among many others.

The police suspect that the mine was detonated by members of the African National Congress, which has close links with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

JEWS RECEIVE ORDER OF CANADA

The Order of Canada has been conferred on four prominent Jewish citizens. One of them is Klaus Goldschlag, now Canadian Ambassador to West Germany, whose family was expelled from the Third Reich. Another, Max Enkin OBE, was instrumental in bringing refugees to Canada after 1945. Jacob Lowy, originally from Czechoslovakia, was also honoured: he has given his valuable collection of Judaica to the Canadian Public Archives. The fourth to receive the Order is Naim Kattan, born in Iraq, and now a well-known author and editor.

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POLES ACT AGAINST WAR CRIMINALS

Head of the Central Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, Professor Czeslaw Pilichowski told an audience at the University of Freiburg about the Commission's active following up of Nazi crimes and criminals. Evidence is still being collected and new prosecutions mounted. Giving some statistics, Professor Pilichowski said that over the last 17 years the Commission had investigated over 11,000 cases and called on 129,000 witnesses. Over 5,000 war criminals of German origin had been sentenced by Polish courts. Up to 1982, 34,000 witnesses' statements and nearly 29,000 copies of documents had been supplied to West German courts. To underline these figures, the professor also mentioned that 22 per cent of the Polish population had died in the war and occupation.

POLISH-JEWISH FRIENDSHIP

Forty years after the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, an appeal has been made for Poles and Jews to be reconciled in "a shared determination that there should never again be an attempt at the total physical annihilation of any nation". The Jewish signatories are Michael Borwicz, formerly a member of "Armia Krajowa" in London and later head of the Polish Jewish Historical Commission; Dr. Joseph Lichten, representative to the Vatican of American Jewish organisations; and Simon Wiesenthal of the Jewish Documentation Centre. On the non-Jewish side, Professors Jan Karski and Jerzy Lerski have joined in the appeal together with Jan Nowak, at one time director of Radio Free Europe. None of the Poles are now living in their native country, but during the Second World War all were underground couriers who brought news to the West of the massacres of Jews in Poland.

The statement pointed out that both the Polish and Jewish states were in a vulnerable geographical position: "Only the Poles . . . can fully understand the sense of jeopardy of Jewish survivors". While Polish antisemites forgot the part played by Jews in the Polish struggle for independence, Jews often unfairly blamed the Polish nation for surrendering their fellows to the Nazi murderers. On the rolls of honour at Yad Vashem, more Poles were recorded as having helped Jews than people of any other country.

KKK FLOURISHES IN VANCOUVER

Vancouver has recently been the scene of increased Ku Klux Klan activity and there are fears that new legislation will make it more difficult to halt the organisation's practices. British Columbia now has a Civil Rights Law which makes it necessary for victims of racist acts to prove the defendant's intent to discriminate against them.

Wolfgang Droege, joint leader of the Canadian KKK, announced a few months ago that his headquarters would be moved from Toronto to Vancouver. The Klan, aided by the "Aryan Nations" group, has recently been distributing antisemitic propaganda in Vancouver. There have also been some cases of house-burning directed against ethnic minority members.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has announced a wide-spread investigation into the activities of British Columbian Klansmen. However, this has not allayed the alarm felt by the Jewish community and other likely racist targets.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Berlin Synagogues

Sir,—May I be permitted to comment on Dr. Rosenau's review of "Synagogen in Berlin" in your June edition. For the information of your readers Vol. 1 was designed to appear under my name and the title: "Die grossen Berliner Synagogen vor ihrer Zerstörung. —Eine Foto-und Dokumentensammlung zu ihrer Geschichte."

My concept was a "Gedenkbuch". This project was accepted by the Berlin Museum of the City of Berlin (West) during the course of my research. At virtually the last minute before going to press the director of the museum changed his mind by turning my book into a catalogue of an exhibition under the authorship of three additional authors, himself included.

The exhibition was arranged in conjunction with the foundation of the former Jewish Museum in Berlin 50 years ago and the 50th anniversary of Hitler's seizure of power. Much of my material, in particular photographs, became part of the exhibition. *It was the exhibition which grew out of my book and not vice versa*, as the reviewer stated, regarding this as a weakness. Also, numerous plans of designs of synagogues which were never built at all and not intended to be published in my book, were now included. Many photographs and documents, originally designed to be part of each synagogue section, appear now separately in Vol. 2, mainly in the chapter "Die Synagogen unter dem Nationalsozialismus". Of course, all this the reviewer could not have known.

As for Dr. Rosenau's next criticism that "parallel developments in other parts of Germany are ignored", that was not the subject of this work. The idea was to show by pictorial documentation the beauty of the great houses of worship of the Jüdische Gemeinde zu Berlin before their destruction, not a comparative study of Berlin synagogues and their counterparts in other areas of Germany.

As far as the reviewer's wish "for a discussion of the place of the Jewish architect in the evolution of the Berlin synagogue" is concerned, a very important and relevant article by the distinguished Gemeinde architect of long standing, Regierungsbaumeister Alexander Beer can be found in Vol. 1, p. 166.

Furthermore, the books are likened to a "gazetteer". Hence, a "geographical dictionary", according to the Oxford Dictionary. The books are surely more than that. Whoever studies this work thoroughly will come to the conclusion that the text is intertwined with important personal accounts of events, newspaper reports, rectifications of hitherto mistaken assumptions of the fate of some Berlin synagogues, the tracing of officially mentioned synagogue services, even during World War II until the physical extinction of the Gemeinde, and concludes, as an epilogue, with Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck's first sermon in London in November 1945 in memory of our destroyed houses of worship (vol. 2, p. 112).

Naturally, the books are not exempt from critical discussion. One major criticism which could be put forward is that the actual photographs are often reduced to such a small format that this failed to meet the purpose of their publication by the author: to show the beholder the beauty of the

Berlin synagogues. Only a large size photo can do this.

Thanks to a generous subsidy from the Senate of Berlin the price of the two volumes is only DM 39.—(£10), i.e. within the reach of everyone interested.

And lastly, in your July edition there appears a sectional elevation of the Neue Synagoge Oranienburger Str. with the caption: "destroyed in 1938". Unfortunately, this recurrent mistake is again repeated here, in spite of my personal account in vol. 2, pp. 78-81 that its burning was prevented by a courageous district police inspector. The building was hit by incendiary bombs in an air raid on February 23, 1943 and destroyed by fire.

HANS HIRSCHBERG

The Fire

Sir,—Regarding Lord Dacre's observation in his letter in the September issue, I did not wait all that long to tell the strange story of the Reichstag Fire. In 1973, 40 years after the event, the Daily Telegraph printed a shortened version of the story.

But immediately I had left Berlin in April 1933 for Vienna, my home town, I contacted the well known Monday paper "Son- & Montags Zeitung" whose editor was the nephew of the owner of the paper, the late Willi Frischauer. Unfortunately, he contacted Dzino, who was in Vienna. Dzino, being afraid of the Nazis' revenge, objected to the true story and the paper printed an entirely untrue account of the events.

True, the S.A. Stormtroop would not have dared to start such a business on their own, but one has to realise that Count Helldorf was the protégé of Goering, who did various things on his own. Whether Goering knew of the plan cannot be ascertained.

Hanussen never had any connection with Hitler or Goebbels, but he had paid all sorts of debts for Count Helldorf. The part of Van der Lubbe remains hazy. After Dzino's murder of his wife and child and suicide, the Vienna Security Police Chief Hofrat Dr. Weiser could not trace any copy of the séance protocol in a Vienna bank safe.

35 Grosvenor Court, JOHN H. KAHAN
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London, N.W.6

German Good Will

Sir,—You printed at the end of page 6 of the September issue and in the smallest print possible a short note that West Germany has paid 17 billion—I repeat 17 billion—in compensation to over five million Jewish claimants while Austria has refused to pay a penny.

Surely this wonderful German gesture should have had a headline and a word of gratitude instead of your casual, niggardly statement hidden at the bottom of page 6?

47 Downshire Hill, FRED UHLMAN, F.R.S.A.
London, N.W.3

Rothschild University Hospital

A Committee of Friends has been formed to support the Rothschild University Hospital in Haifa. Anybody interested in co-operating should contact the undersigned.

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Mrs. E. RADO

"MAKE TOOLS FOR ELDERLY"

The British Association meeting at Brighton heard Professor Heinz Wolff expound his idea that the elderly and disabled needed "tools for living". Why not, he suggested, give such appliances as presents? If it is normal for a grandmother to give her grandson an electric drill, because he is "disabled" by his finger not being hard enough to make a hole in the wall, why can't he give her a device that will let her make a cup of tea without spilling it?

Professor Wolff pointed out the enormous commercial possibilities involved—people over 65 amounted to only 18 per cent of the population but they possessed one-third of the nation's savings. He spoke of the need for women to have help in putting on stockings, of others who should have a self-righting iron, of the use of TV screens to enlarge recipes or knitting patterns. The frail elderly, he said, had only lately become a large class and they form a quite new type of consumer, whom manufacturers should consider.

On a lighter note, "The Great Egg Race", the technological game compered with unmatched charm by Professor Wolff has recently been seen on television in the evenings, and he has also been heard on the radio. Although he came to this country as a boy of eleven, he explained, and although to himself he sounds like a true-born English gentleman, the "musical computer in his head" had never managed to eradicate his German accent.

BRADFORD'S JEWISH HISTORY

Nigel Grizzard, a local member of the Jewish Historical Society, recently brought Bradford's Jewish history to life. He organised a city walk, taking in "Little Germany", where many German-Jewish merchants settled after 1830, the Bradford Synagogue and other places of interest.

CLUB 1943

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- 1983
- 7 Nov. W. R. Powell, B.A., F.R.G.S.
"1983—Vienna and the Turks".
- 14 Nov. C. Kryslar (Anglo-Continental Mineral Society)
"Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Schmucksteinkunde." (with slides.)
- 21 Nov. Anthony J. Newton, L.I.B.
"Where there is a Will, there is a Way."
- 28 Nov. Hans Seelig, M.A. "Brahms—the Reluctant Romantic."
- 5 Dec. Rabbi Dr. Albert H. Friedlander.
"Als Bruder Martin sein Tintenfass nach mir warf: Luther und die Juden."
(read by Mr. John Barlow)
- 12 Dec. Vivien Stern, M.A., M.Litt.
"Crime and Punishment."
- 19 Dec. Harry Blacker.
"Illustrated Talk on Jewish Humour."
- 26 Dec. No Meeting.

1984

- 2 Jan. No Meeting.
- 9 Jan. Peer Baedeker: "Hinter den Kulissen eines Antiquariats."

Books from the estate of the late Gabriele Tergit are obtainable from Club 43 at greatly reduced prices.

OBITUARIES

DR. ERIC KANN

Dr. Eric Kann died recently in London at the age of 81. He was a world pioneer in the establishment of quality standards in the retailing of garments and other textiles. He was technical and later merchandise development director of Marks and Spencer until his retirement.

He was born at Hildburghausen, studied at Munich and Freiburg universities, and graduated in chemistry and economics. He worked for the Schocken department store chain, and started a laboratory for merchandise quality testing and standards development at their head office in Zwickau. He was Salman Schocken's personal assistant and by 1933 director of personnel. After working in Holland for two years, he went on to London, where, in 1935 the late Lord Marks asked him to build up a laboratory which would give impartial advice to the textile industry as a whole.

In 1954 Dr. Kann was the first non-family member to be appointed to the board of Marks and Spencer. He was instrumental in bringing about a closer connection between the retailer and the manufacturer. His approach to quality became the basis of much consumer legislation, and was adopted by the world's main retail chains as the basis of their purchasing policies.

When there was an industry-organised collection to mark his retirement, he used the proceeds to endow the Eric Kann scholarships in textile technology administered by the Textile Institute, of which he was a Fellow and a former vice-president.

He was concerned that Israel become self-sufficient economically, encouraged the planting of long-staple cotton and plant for the manufacture of acrylic fibres, which promoted the growth of the Israeli knitwear industry.

After his emigration from Germany he did much to help the ever-increasing stream of refugees. He was able to extricate his parents and an aunt and uncle from Germany at the last moment, and supported them until they died. He was an outstanding member of our community, and our sympathy goes out to his widow Ruth, and their son and daughter.

DR. LOUISE W. LEVEN

The distinguished musicologist Louise W. Leven died recently at Hindhead, Surrey, in her eighties. Born in Krefeld, she obtained her doctorate in 1926 and became a tutor at a music teachers' training college. She was also much in demand as a lecturer and writer on musical topics. In 1939 she left Germany to join the Stootley Rough School at Haslemere, run by Drs. Hilde Lion and Emmy Wolff for the education of refugee children. Dr. Leven was later appointed as the school's director of music and afterwards vice-principal.

DR. LEO WISLICKY

A specialist in diabetes, Dr. Leo Wislicky has died in Israel at the age of 82. Breslau was his native city, but he practised in Berlin for some years before emigrating from Nazi Germany to Britain. He settled in Manchester and continued his medical profession there. When he moved to Israel, Dr. Wislicky became professor of pharmacology at the Hebrew University and a consultant at the Shaare Zedek Hospital.

FRIEDRICH HEER

The death of Friedrich Heer was announced recently in Vienna. He was 67. A noted Roman Catholic writer and editor, he had produced several works on Hitler's religious and quasi-religious beliefs.

ALEXANDER L. EASTERMAN

After a long career, first in journalism and then in the leadership of the World Jewish Congress, Alexander Easterman died recently aged 92. Born in Scotland of Lithuanian parents, as a young man he was already pleading with government ministers for the release of Jews interned during the First World War as enemy aliens. At one time he was foreign editor of the "Daily Express" but resigned his post because of the paper's attitude towards the Nazi persecution of Jews. In 1947 he was invited to become political director of the World Jewish Congress and he undertook many missions in various countries to plead for Jewish sufferers. He also took a prominent part in the discussions with West Germany on restitution for victims of Nazism.

SHMUEL AHARONI

Chazan of the Belfast Hebrew Congregation for almost a quarter of a century, the Rev. Shmuel Aharoni has died at the age of 75. Although born in Palestine, Shmuel Aharoni studied chazanut in Germany. He wished to stay in Europe because he found himself unsuited to his native Mediterranean climate. However, although a post in Berlin was offered to him, he foresaw the dangers of the coming Nazi regime and came to London. After living in Glasgow until 1959, he moved to Northern Ireland.

RABBI YAKOV FISHMAN

Rabbi of the Moscow Central Synagogue, Yakov Fishman died recently in Moscow at the age of 70. Born in Volhynia, Rabbi Fishman lost his first wife and four children at the hands of the Nazis, but himself managed to escape to unoccupied Russia. After post-war studies at the Moscow yeshiva and rabbinical appointments in several provincial towns, he took up his duties in the capital in the early '70s. Of late years he followed the party line on anti-Zionism and his last public act was to concur in a statement put out by the Soviet Public Anti-Zionist Committee.

EZEKIEL STEIMATZKY

Once a worker in the famous publishing house of Ullstein, Ezekiel Steimatzky has died in Israel at the age of 83. He was chairman of Israel's most important publishing and bookselling group.

Born in Kovno, as a young man Mr. Steimatzky was arrested for his Zionist activities. Although sentenced to exile in Siberia, he escaped to Germany and studied law and economics in Berlin. There he met Ze'ev Jabotinsky, a strong influence in his life. With £25 borrowed from his brother, Ezekiel Steimatzky opened his first bookshop in Palestine, which was followed by many branches, some of them in Arab countries. Today there are 25 Steimatzky bookshops in Israel.

PROFESSOR FELIX BLOCH

Nuclear physicist Professor Felix Bloch has died in Zürich aged 77. Born in Switzerland, Felix Bloch was a lecturer at Leipzig University when the Nazis came to power. Following his dismissal on racial grounds, he emigrated to America and was appointed professor of physics at Stanford University. He helped to develop the nuclear bomb and in 1954 became director of the European Nuclear Research Centre in Geneva.

PETER EDEL

Peter Edel has died in East Germany at the age of 61. A "Mischling" according to Nazi concepts, he survived forced labour in Siemensstadt, as well as incarceration in a number of concentration camps including Grossbeeren, Ebensee, Sachsenhausen and Auschwitz. Because of his artistic talents, he was chosen as one of the workers in Operation Bernhard, the Nazi scheme to flood Allied countries with forged currency. He wrote a two-volume history of his experiences entitled "Wenn es ans Leben geht", published some years ago in East Germany. Peter Edel was a prominent member of the DDR Writers' Union and the East German branch of PEN.

LIST OF NUERNBERG JEWS

One of our members has heard of a list of former Jewish citizens of Nürnberg which was published either in the U.S. or the U.K. Our own enquiries have yielded no results. Readers who know of the existence of such a published list should kindly inform the AJR, giving details of the publisher.

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Joyce Weiner

AS THOMAS MANN SAID TO ME...

Joyce Weiner was Honorary Secretary of the Hospitality Committee of the first Jewish Refugees Committee and worked at Woburn House from early April 1933 to 1935. Previously she had spent a semester in 1931-32 as Hilfslektorin at the University of Leipzig, so she had had ample opportunity to observe the gathering storm. Until her recent retirement she was a well-known literary agent. Here she tells of her meetings with the distinguished writers in exile at Sanary in southern France. (See 'Theatre' on p. 12).

'Thomas Mann said to me,'—a conversation stopper, but, on the rare occasions when I find myself announcing this, I have as great a sense of disbelief as my hearer. Did it ever really happen? It was so long ago. By now, those fabulous days at Sanary have taken on the colour and texture of a dream.

The year was 1933, a time of despair but not yet of annihilation. Hitler had recently come to power but the extent of his Satanic aims was unknown. Threats and warnings were rampant and some of Germany's greatest writers in danger either because of their origins or political leanings went into what they thought would be temporary exile, hoping that the day of the madman would pass.

At Bandol and Sanary, then small, jewel-like resorts on the Côtes des Maures associated with Aldous Huxley, Katherine Mansfield and their contemporaries were assembled, amongst others,

Lion Feuchtwanger, Arnold Zweig and the brothers Heinrich and Thomas Mann, the last two long estranged by their opposing points of view but brought together in the face of a common foe.



Heinrich Mann by Dolbin

The writers' retreat had, up till then proved almost impregnable to the press and it was a great scoop for a young and obscure free-lance journalist to have the chance of interviewing them.

It was the result of the merest fluke. Paid work being hard to come by, I had the opportunity to

help out at a voluntary Hospitality Committee for refugees from Germany, arriving first in a trickle then in an overwhelming flood. Amongst them was dynamic Irma Sernau, fashion editor, from Berlin, one of a brilliant artistic circle soon to scatter to the ends of the earth. As long as it was possible she was a female Pimpernel, helping others to escape and subsequently became an active and daring member of the French Resistance. For the slight service I was able to render her at that time she was anxious to repay the best way she could. This turned out to be by an introduction to her sister, Lola, who was in contact with some of the giants, then, as they believed in brief exile in the South of France.

Permission to interview them was duly obtained, my London editor expressed great interest though he would not give a firm commission. I decided the trip would be worth the gamble and Violet and Sidney Schiff, in homage and sympathy to fellow writers, helped to underwrite the journey. Off I went to the South, standing up in the corridor for most of the long night, too excited to sleep and in an attempt to avoid the attentions of two French sailors, each of whom, after demolishing a chicken and a litre of *rouge* required a shoulder as a pillow. I still remember the reflection of the dawn in the rock pools before it changed to blazing sunlight.

Hot, tired and infinitely nervous, I was met and put at my ease by Lola, an instant and lasting friend, and borne off at once to see Lion Feuchtwanger to whom she was confidential secretary. His villa, with its fastened *jalousies*, marble floor and long shadows was cool and welcoming. Outside in the midday sun not a sound was to be heard, and, beyond, one recalls that the whole

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AS THOMAS MANN SAID TO ME . . .

continued

of Europe basking in a lovely summer was virtually deaf to the most ominous of sounds.

The famous writer was not good to look upon. His pebble-thick glasses did not improve his *visage de singe* and there was nothing alluring about his form clad in the briefest shorts and tanned the deepest mahogany. His manner was genial, however, and his appearance completely eclipsed by a flow of wit in fluent English. His attack on the Nazi régime was spirited and scornful. It was easy to recognise the sardonic creator of *Jew Süß* and that prophetic masterpiece, *Success*. Alas, only one aphorism has remained with me. 'Most revolutions', said he 'are the work of the poor in pocket. This revolt is one of the poor in spirit.' What one now realises is that time was getting short for aphorisms. . . .

With Arnold Zweig I struck up an immediate friendship. As well as humour he had a warmth and expansiveness that could not be resisted. The author of *The Case of Sergeant Grischa* was, at that time, losing his sight but one was scarcely aware of this. After our meeting we corresponded for quite a while. He sent me some pages of an as yet unpublished book for which I found him an able and willing translator, but my attempts at placing the work for him (I was not until long afterwards a literary agent) were victims to the confusion of the time. The letters I have and treasure were written during the same period as some of those to his 'Father Freud' as he called him, and reflect the same mood. Arnold Zweig was staying in a modest pension, in contrast with Feuchtwanger's luxurious villa. Their means were probably not comparable but it is more likely that Zweig's political stance to some extent influenced his life style.

Of Heinrich Mann I have only one clear mental picture. I see him as a tall, burly figure, taciturn and remote. He seemed to be savouring to the full the bitterness of a prophet proved right too late. Lola and I sat down with him in a small café for a drink and the *patron* cranked up his wheezy machine with its worn record. Just recognisable the husky tones revealed that the singer was 'Auf Liebe eingestellt—sonst Garnichts.' It was

inevitable, I suppose, as one watched that bearded giant's toiling uphill to his lonely supper, to wonder if his earthly fame would, forever, be reduced to the memory of an unmistakable voice and pair of legs—*sonst Garnichts*.

The interview with his brother was in marked contrast, carefully planned for an appointed hour at his home and with a time limit strictly observed. *La Tranquille*, the name of the villa suited it admirably. After Frau Dr Mann, comely in her bathing suit, had received me she took the children off for a swim and I was left alone for half an hour with one of the greatest writers of his day. My German was rudimentary and I must have understood a small proportion of what he said to me, but I was content to gaze at that noble head and listen to a melodious voice uttering the German language more eloquently and more precisely than I had ever heard or was likely to hear again.



Lion Feuchtwanger

As far as I can remember, he told me what is now well known, that he had been away from Germany when the crucial elections had taken place, and that he had been warned by his friends not to return just then. He was the only one of the four writers who spoke of what living abroad might mean. In elegiac tones and with an air of finality he told me that he could never write in a country where German was not the spoken language. To him, at that moment, physical exile would mean an end to his inspiration. Luckily, his pessimism was, indeed, temporary and some of his finest work was still to be written outside his native land.

Soon after I returned to London eager to set down and publish my impressions, I had word from Sanary asking me to use extreme caution, and, if possible, to submit my manuscript before publication. Since I cannot recollect that, in fact, anything was ever written, it is possible that I felt it more prudent to commit nothing to paper. For that reason the greatest literary experience of my life has remained unrecorded until to-day.

JOHN F. OPPENHEIMER 80

On November 13, John (Hans) F. Oppenheimer will celebrate his 80th birthday. A short while ago the Berlin Museum became the beneficiary of the "John F.-and-Hertha-Oppenheimer-Stiftung". It comprises 1,000 books, brochures and periodicals as well as documents, files and works of art which he and his wife had collected in the course of their lives and have donated to the museum. The endowment will serve as invaluable source material for research workers on German Jewry. Before his emigration in the wake of the November 1938 pogroms, Hans Oppenheimer held positions with the Ullstein publishers and the Central-Verein. He was co-editor of the *Philo-Lexikon*, which had four editions between 1934 and 1938.

In New York he started his career as a messenger of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency but soon found his niche as partner in and, later, head of an enterprise in the field of printing and duplicating. At the same time, he acted as chief editor of the "Lexicon des Judentums" (1967, 1971 and 1975), the only German-language Jewish post-war reference book. He was also a Board member of the "Aufbau" and has written many contributions to this journal which always reflect his widespread knowledge and journalistic expertise. The Oppenheimers now live in Santa Barbara, where they enjoy a life of active retirement. We extend our cordial congratulations to the octogenarian.

PROF. FELDBERG'S MEDAL

The Royal Society has awarded its Royal Medal to Professor W. S. Feldberg FRS in recognition of his contributions to elucidating the nature of chemical synaptic transmission in the nervous system and the chemosensitive areas in the brain. Prof. Feldberg is emeritus professor and attached worker in the division of neurophysiology and neuropharmacology of the National Institute for Medical Research. He was born in Hamburg and studied in Berlin, and came to this country in 1933. He will be 82 on 19 November, and we send him the warmest congratulations.

WALTER STRANZ LEADER

Walter Stranz (son of Martin Stranz, who, until his death in 1976 worked for URO), was recently elected Leader of Redditch Borough Council following the victory of the Labour Party in the Redditch Council elections. He has also recently been appointed Head of the Department of Planning and Landscape at the City of Birmingham Polytechnic.

NEW OFFICER FOR HIAS

HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, has a new director of operations in Europe, Israel and North Africa. He is Ernest Berger, born in Vienna, who was himself an immigrant to England in 1939.

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JOHN PAUL IN VIENNA

In the course of the Pope's visit to Vienna in September, he was handed a symbolic urn containing the ashes of Auschwitz victims. The event took place at the main rally in the Heldenplatz, where other speakers referred to the sufferings of the Jews under Hitler on the very spot where the dictator celebrated the Anschluss in March 1938. During the visit, the leader of the Austrian Jewish community, Dr. Iwan Hacker, and the Israeli Ambassador were presented to Pope John Paul.

ANTI-ISRAELI DISCRIMINATION IN INDIA

Mr. Isi Leibler, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, has protested to the Indian High Commissioner about difficulties experienced by the Indian Jewish community. Whilst on a visit to the sub-continent, Mr. Leibler discovered that it was almost impossible for Israeli citizens to obtain entry visas, even if they wished to visit relatives on compassionate grounds. A year ago the Israeli Consul in Bombay was expelled from India and his successor has not yet been granted a visa.

BISHOP URGES ROMAN-JEWISH LINKS

A diocesan commission in Rome, headed by the Auxiliary Bishop, have urged Catholics and Jews to read their Bibles together and undertake co-operative meetings between members of the two faiths. The report also suggests that marriages between Jews and Catholics could be facilitated and advises priests to pay particular attention to the words and concepts which they employ in preaching and teaching. The target towards which Romans should work, said the committee, is collaboration between the Jewish community and the parishes of the Church in Rome.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge, but voluntary donations would be appreciated. Texts should reach us by the 15th of the preceding month.

Birthday

Kingston:—Bernard Leslie Kingston (Koenigstein) celebrates his 80th birthday at 120 West 86th Street, Apt. 11A, New York 10024, N.Y.

Deaths

Basson:—Mrs. Jeanette Basson died peacefully after a short illness, at Leo Baeck House on 15 September.

Basson:—The AJR Club deeply mourns the death of its member Jeanette Basson. She will always be remembered as one of the most charming hostesses of our Club. When she attended our Bazaar early this year, it was hard to believe that she was 95 years old. Her youthful appearance, her cheerfulness and lively spirit belied her age. We shall miss her very much.

Berg:—Guenther Berg passed away on 24 September after a long illness. Deeply mourned by his wife Ellen and family.

Fischer:—Risa Fischer, née Brandweiner, died on 9 September. Deeply mourned by her husband and sister Maria Wahle.

Meyer:—Lisbet Meyer, born 1905 in Berlin, living at 9 Everard Avenue, Slough, died on 1 October in hospital after suffering a stroke. Sadly missed by her relatives and by the West Central Liberal Jewish Congregation.

Sachs:—Margaret Valerie Sachs (née Lasker) died peacefully in her sleep on 21 April. After 94 years, she will be very much missed by her daughters Helli and Gertrude, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren in England and Israel.

Sinai:—Jacob Sinai, of 11, Norwood Lodge, Vine Street, Salford, passed away after a short illness, on 13 September. Deeply mourned by his children, grand-children and friends.

Stone:—Eva Tucker, of 63, Belsize Park Gardens, London, NW3 regrets to announce the death of her mother Margot Stone (Steinicke née Opfer) at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, NW3, on 27 August.

In Memoriam

Sulzbach:—In loving memory of my unforgettable Beate, who passed away on 25 November 1982. Forever loved by her grieving husband, sister and niece.

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WEIZMANN'S INTEGRITY

This book (*The Essential Chaim Weizmann*. By B. Litvinoff. Weidenfeld & Nicholson. £16.50) gives the reader a chance to observe Weizmann through his own writings and through the eyes of others. The result is a composite portrait of a genuinely three-dimensional character. There are warts here and some are self-displayed, and they are not pretty ones. It confirms that Weizmann was no intellectual and held many of the conventional views of his time.

The French Jews, for example, Weizmann writes, have as 'their highest ideal . . . assimilation, disintegration, dissolution . . . and the sooner they do it the better'. (From a letter to James de Rothschild, 15 October, 1916.) The Russian Jew suffers from 'semi-sterile intellectuality . . . he lives in a world of thoughts and sentiments which revolve round himself'. (From a letter of August 1920.) With some honourable exceptions Jewish scientists 'are more or less what the Germans call *bodenlos*'. (From a speech of 1927.)

But these cliché-like assertions are redeemed by the sense of sheer rock-like integrity that unmistakably emanates from this book. Indeed, the

counterpoint to a certain disdain for the Diaspora and its alleged harmful effects is the unshaken devotion to the Zionist cause. Smuts is surely not guilty of hyperbole when he refers to Weizmann as 'the greatest Jewish leader since Moses'.

But it is a remarkable fact that, perhaps with the sole exception of Jabotinsky, the many assessments of Weizmann reproduced here, whether from friends or enemies, are unanimous in their emphasis on Weizmann's utter lack of subterfuge and all-consuming dedication, moderated by a sense of the politically possible. It is part of the distinctive value of this book that the truth of Weizmann's personality is displayed in the round and in convincing depths.

LIONEL KOCHAN

"DOSH" LEAVES LONDON

"Dosh", the Israeli press cartoonist, more formally known as Kariel Gardosh, the cultural attaché at the Israeli Embassy in London, will soon be picking up his pen again. His two-year tour of Embassy duty has come to an end and he is returning to Israel.

NAZI FILMS' POSTPONED SHOWING

A showing in Rome of films from the Third Reich was to have included two well-known antisemitic works: Veit Harlan's "Jud Süß" and Fritz Hippler's "Der ewige Jude". Although the Jewish community did not object to light comedies or even to such "positive propaganda" as Leni Riefenstahl's "Triumph des Willens", they felt that the two 1940 films should not be presented in the same context. They should be shown as part of the drive to the Holocaust and include a commentary from serious students of the period. The organisers, who included the city authorities, agreed to the postponement until new arrangements could be made.

Parliamentarian Recalled

The life and death of a prominent Jewish parliamentarian, Dr. Carlo Finzi of Rome, has been commemorated by a plaque in the Italian parliament building. Surviving members of the Finzi family were present at the unveiling. Dr. Finzi defended parliamentary autonomy during the Mussolini regime and when the Nazis occupied Italy he and his family were deported to Auschwitz.

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THEATRE

Tales from Hollywood, a new play by Christopher Hampton. Directed by Peter Gill. In repertory at the National Theatre.

Christopher Hampton's play covers the same ground as John Russell Taylor's book, *Strangers in Paradise, The Hollywood Emigrés 1933-1950* (reviewed in our June issue). Mr. Russell Taylor made an absorbing, coherent story of this fascinating material, filling in the background for those not familiar with the personalities and details of Weimar culture in its Hollywood exile. What Mr. Hampton has made of this material is more problematical.

One could call it a fantasy on German-themes-in-exile, arranged as a series of revue sketches. The fantasy begins with the link-man who ties the sketches together, Ödön von Horváth, the Austro-Hungarian novelist and playwright whose plays Mr. Hampton has translated. Horváth was killed by a branch falling from a chestnut tree on the Champs Elysées in 1938; he never went to America. Mr. Hampton imagines Horváth sheltering under the Parisian tree with a stranger, and the stranger is killed instead so that Horváth can carry

on—the stranger (perhaps death himself) exchanging roles at the end to round off the play with Horváth's demise.

But throughout the episodes it is Horváth—who was never there who introduces, comments upon and interacts with the real writers and actors in Hollywood, enforcing disbelief. If the spectator knows these writers and their work, he is alienated by the cardboard caricatures. If Thomas, Heinrich, Katja and Nelly Mann, the Feuchtwangers, Brecht, Weigel and Viertel are only names to the theatre-goer, then he is doubtless amused by this animated literary gossip column, which is all it is.

The two fully-realised characters show what could have been done with the material if Mr. Hampton had bothered. One is Horváth, fleshed out convincingly by the impressive presence and talent of Michael Gambon. The other is Brecht, with his contradictions and opportunism, his hypocrisy and cutting wit. Ian McDiarmid, a striking look-alike, extracted every ounce of theatre from a rewardingly well-written part. Mr. Hampton makes the most of Hollywood vulgarity and boorishness, to comic effect, which must have amused the California sophisticates for whom the play was originally written. The McCarthyite episode made life nasty for a number of writers

and actors, but how many in the audience will grasp the balancing reference to Carola Neher, the brilliant actress and Brecht's mistress, who was murdered in Russia by Stalin? More of a moral sense of proportion would not have been amiss, since Brecht knew quite well what was going on, as his very discreet inquiries clearly indicate. For further light on that and other issues, and a valuable detailed exposition of Brecht's theatrical techniques, see the riveting, thoroughly researched new biography by Ronald Hayman: *Brecht—A Biography* (Weidenfeld, £8.95 pb).

Thomas Mann had his vain and pompous sides, but you would never know that there was any more to him, judging from the play. Mr. Hampton misses the opportunity to present the complicated relationship between the Mann brothers with understanding, instead of playing it for laughs. That fine actress Billie Whitelaw does what she can with the role of Heinrich's wife Nelly, making a Cockney vulgarian of her. Letters in the press from people who knew Nelly have claimed that Mr. Hampton's version of Heinrich's wife is a travesty of the truth.

To be fair, the staging and costumes were so lively and attractive and Horváth-Gambon's patter so engaging, that one's attention did not flag. M.S.

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