

AJR

INFORMATION

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ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

W. Rosenstock

HISTORY AND ITS LESSONS

Latest Leo Baeck Institute Year Book

The main subject of the latest Year Book of the Leo Baeck Institute* is the battle for Jewish emancipation in Germany. The choice of the theme was deliberate, because 1969 marked the centenary of the promulgation of the law whereby the Reichstag of the North German Federation repealed the last vestiges of restrictions by reason of religious differences. After the unification of Germany the law was made applicable to the other German federal States.

It has become fashionable in some quarters to denigrate the history of Jewish emancipation in Germany. Has not the tragedy of 1933 proved that it was a failure, if failure is not too weak a word? Fortunately, this negative approach is gradually giving way to more balanced assessments, and we notice a steady increase of interest in German-Jewish historiography, among Jews of both German and non-German origin, as well as among young German, non-Jewish scholars.

The motives for this interest may differ. Some Germans may, at least subconsciously, be driven by feelings of guilt and by the ardent desire to assess the causes of the catastrophe and to make sure that it "should never happen again". Jewish scholars, including those who were not brought up in Germany, begin to realise the creative forces which emanated from the confrontation of a section of the Jewish people with its non-Jewish environment. This process has no equal in earlier Jewish history, with the possible exception of the Spanish epoch, and even there the comparison holds good only to a limited extent. Furthermore, today Jews in many parts of the world are faced with problems similar to those of German Jewry before 1933, though the pattern has, to some extent, changed due to the existence of the Jewish State and the emergence of a pluralistic society in countries such as the United States, the largest centre of Diaspora Jewry.

We are indebted to Ernest Hamburger whose book about "Juden im öffentlichen Leben Deutschlands 1848-1918" (Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen des Leo Baeck Instituts, Tübingen 1968) has become a standard work, for his Year Book article, "One Hundred Years of Emancipation", in which he describes and evaluates the legislative development from the first Prussian Emancipation Law of 1812 up to the Weimar Constitution. The law of 1812 granted Jews living in the Prussian territories of that time full equality, with the exception of access to

the officer corps, to public administrative offices and to the judiciary which the King, against Hardenberg's advice, left to future legislation. The process suffered a setback at the Vienna Congress of 1815, when the promulgation of a law for the whole of Germany was deferred and made subject to future deliberations.

There followed 30 years of political regression until, after the Revolution of 1848, the Constitution emanating from the Federal Assembly stipulated that the enjoyment of civil and political rights should be neither dependent upon, nor restricted by, religious creed. This legal conception reflected the social status which the German Jews had gradually attained. Yet political opposition against the unreserved emancipation persisted, and, though on paper the Federal Law of 1869 brought the emancipation to its conclusion, *de facto* disabilities persisted. Jews were admitted to the civil service, but access, not to speak of promotion, was very limited. Baptised Jews obtained access more easily, but, according to Hamburger, the small number of such Jews in the officer and reserve officer corps proves the force of the racial point of view on the military establishment. Hamburger describes the undercurrent anti-Jewish trends in Imperial Germany. A temporary "Burgfrieden" at the beginning of the First World War was brought to an end only two years later by the infamous "Judenzählung". The chapter about the Jews in the revolutionary period (e.g., Otto Landsberg, Hugo Haase and Max Cohen-Reuss) makes stimulating reading.

At the Weimar Assembly, Oscar Cohn (Independent Socialist), the only Zionist among the Jewish members, suggested that the protection of minorities, granted in the Constitution, should not be restricted to members of linguistic minority groups, but should also apply to minorities whose mother tongue was German, e.g., the Jews. This was rejected as it was considered unnecessary. Commenting on Cohn's action, Hamburger writes: "It implied a prophecy of doom for the Jews of Germany. The success of his motion would not have averted their fate. Its presentation, however, showed a remarkable insight into things that were to come in the not too distant future". The narrative becomes particularly fascinating in the chapter dealing with the Weimar Republic, a period about which the author speaks from first-hand experience. As voters, the Jews only had a restricted choice. The anti-Jewish attitude of the Deutschnationale Volkspartei went so far that in 1920 the leading personality in the field of social work, Anna von Gierke, a DNVP member of the Weimar Assembly, was not nomi-

nated for the Reichstag, because her mother was of Jewish descent.

Whilst during the short transitory period until 1922 a few Jews held ministerial positions in the Reich (Preuss, Landsberg, Gradnauer, Rathenau and Schiffer) only two Jews, Hilferding and Joel (baptised) were members of subsequent Cabinets. Most served for less than one year and, according to Hamburger, there was no preponderance in the Laender governments and the High Civil Service either. The tag of "Judenrepublik" was, therefore, unfounded, but the success of political propaganda does not necessarily depend on its truthfulness. Hamburger's essay is made particularly valuable by the combination of reliable factual information with a thorough knowledgeable and understanding interpretation of the wider political, social, economic and ideological issues involved.

The subject is enlarged upon in Reinhard Rürup's essay on "Jewish Emancipation and Bourgeois Society". In dealing with the social integration of the Jews, the author states that the occupations of Jews gradually spread over a wider field. This, however, did not lead to a "normalisation" of their status, because on the average they attained higher economic positions than those of their non-Jewish fellow citizens who worked in the same fields. "In addition to Jewish poverty and lack of education, Jewish wealth and Jewish intelligence had become hindrances". This assessment is confirmed by Robert A. Kann's article about "Assimilation and Antisemitism in the German-French Orbit". Kann deals with the higher proportion of Jews in secondary schools and universities, and mentions that in 1905 Jewish income tax returns in eight major German cities exceeded the population quota by 200 to 700 per cent.

The unsound occupational structure of German Jewry prompted many benefactors to promote training facilities in the field of agriculture and artisanship. In the course of time, these efforts changed in motivation and content. In the past century, commercial and professional activities were more rewarding than manual work. It was, therefore, not surprising that young Jews were attracted by careers in these fields. The fact that they thus contributed to the lop-sided structure of German Jewry certainly did not serve as a deterrent to them. With the notable exception of those who decided to build up their lives in Palestine, vocational retraining was, therefore, of only limited success.

Paradoxically, some of the philanthropists who advocated, launched and financed retraining schemes, held positions which were, by their very nature, particularly open to anti-Jewish attacks, and the average supporters of organisations for the retraining of Jews would not have dreamed of letting their sons embark on careers as farmers or carpenters. Yet all this must not detract our respect for those who established vocational training centres. One such was the banker, Moritz Simon (1837-

Continued on page 2, column 1

* Leo Baeck Institute. Year Book XIV. Edited by Robert Weltsch. East and West Library, 1969. 430 pp. 43 illustrations. £2 15s. Free for Friends of the L.B.I.

History and its Lessons

1905) of Hanover. He initiated the creation of the "Jüdische Gartenbauschule" in Ahlem, whose history from 1893 until its dissolution in 1942 is described by E. G. Lowenthal. The existence of such training centres proved a blessing for young Jews of various backgrounds when the Nazis came to power. Then, the training of young and middle-aged German Jews in vocations which could easily be taken up in countries of emigration became a dire necessity. In fact, the number of training schemes in Germany had to be increased, and similar facilities had to be created in countries of refuge. The "Werkdorp Nieuwesluis" (better known as "Werkdorp Wieringermeer", its original name) is a case in point. Its history is told by one of its most devoted promoters, Gertrude van Tijn, who herself was later incarcerated in Belsen, and who now lives in the United States.

A vivid report on the rescue efforts in Spain and Portugal during the last war is given by Perez Leshem (Fritz Lichtenstein), who continued the mission which Wilfrid Israel was unable to complete owing to his death when the plane on which he was travelling from Lisbon to London was shot down by the Nazis. By his courage, diplomatic skill and resilience, Leshem (later Israeli Consul General in Germany) succeeded in organising transports of stranded Jewish refugees, most of them young, to Palestine. The report recreates the wartime atmosphere in the two Iberian countries which were neutral, and which served as venues for political activities of the opposing belligerent countries. First-hand reports of this kind are invaluable and should be secured as far as possible.

For Jews from Germany who settled in this country, the prolegomena to a biography of Sir Ernest Cassel by Kurt Grunwald ("Wind-sor-Cassel"—The Last Court Jew) are of particular interest, especially as so far no complete biography of this financier is available. Though Cassel's Jewish affiliations were scanty (in compliance with his dying wife's wish he embraced the Catholic faith) and notwithstanding his close personal friendship with King Edward VII, his Jewish origin and foreign birth barred him from full acceptance by English society. "He stood between two worlds, and belonged to neither", Grunwald writes. The essay carries a wealth of so far unknown material about Cassel's financial transactions, his efforts at Anglo-German understanding, his charitable endowments and his social achievements.

The book also features an endearing profile by A. W. Binder, of Isaac Offenbach, cantor in Cologne and father of Jacques Offenbach; a biographical sketch by Hanns Reissner of Heine's and Eduard Gans's contemporary, Daniel Lessmann; some letters by August Belmont, the American financier of German-Jewish origin, compiled by Rahel Liebeschütz; notes by Walter Breslauer on organisational problems of German Jewry; and the traditional annual bibliography compiled by Bertha Cohn.

The introduction by Robert Weltsch is, as usual, not only an introduction to the contents of the volume, but also a thought-provoking essay in its own right. Again we are indebted to Dr. Weltsch for having presented us with a valuable piece of German-Jewish historiography which belongs in the library of every Jewish family.

LASTENAUSGLEICH
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Einzelheiten auf Seite 7

"TEN-YEAR PLAN OF EXTERMINATION"

Heydrich's Former Schoolmate as Witness

"The extermination of the Jews was decided by Hitler in a ten-year plan, conceived as early as 1933. The idea was that, after the end of the first five years, Jews should no longer be living in freedom. At the end of the second five years, there should be no Jews at all in Europe." This sensational statement was made by the retired Landesrat, Dr. Erich Schultze, who appeared as a witness in the Berlin trial of the former head of the Stapoleitstelle Berlin, Otto Bovensiepen, and his deputy, Dr. Kurt Ventner. As already reported in the July issue, both defendants are accused of having been accessories to the murder of 35,000 Berlin Jews.

Dr. Schultze was a former schoolmate of Reinhard Heydrich. Though Heydrich knew that Schultze was an anti-Nazi, he retained his contacts with him. He disclosed to him the extermination plan in March, 1933. Nine years later, when Heydrich was Deputy "Reichs-protector", Schultze paid him a visit at his residence at the Hradshin in Prague. On that occasion, Schultze reported, the two men had an animated one-hour discussion about the persecution of the Jews and the mass deportations. Heydrich showed Schultze a letter, addressed by Himmler to the senior SS officers which carried instructions about the extermination. Schultze was greatly upset by the document and, after his return to Berlin, informed his friend, Colonel Oster of the "Abwehr", about what he had read. According to Schultze, this information strengthened Oster's determination to work for the overthrow of the Hitler regime; his participation in the plot of July 20, 1944, cost him his life.

Schultze also told the court that Heydrich had considered himself as a "Putativ-Jude". At school in Halle his comrades teased him by calling him "Isi", because there were rumours about his alleged partially Jewish origin. The witness left it open whether these rumours were founded. In any case, he stated, Heydrich felt greatly exasperated by them and wanted to show his mettle to Hitler and Himmler by perpetrating the mass killings of Jews.

The statements by Dr. Schultze had a sensational effect on both the criminal court and the general public. They have opened entirely new vistas. Schultze had already mentioned the "Ten-Year Plan" a short time before in a newspaper article about the Berlin Praelat Lichtenberg who was murdered because he had prayed for the Jews.

A number of former senior Gestapo officials, who appeared as witnesses in the Bovensiepen trial insisted that, in spite of their high positions, they had known nothing about the "Final Solution". This alleged ignorance does not come as a surprise to those who meanwhile learned the inside story. When Werner Best, Amtschef of the Gestapo and later "Reichs-bevollmächtigter" in Denmark, was arrested, copies of his letters to several former heads of Gestapo offices were found in which he

stressed the importance of disclaiming any knowledge of the "Final Solution."

Meanwhile, Best himself appeared as a witness in the trial of his former colleague. He first tried to give the impression that his duties had been restricted to legal and administrative questions. However, when cross-examined by the lawyer of the victims and their relatives, Dr. R. Kempner, he had to admit that he had signed warrants for "protective custody". He also had to be reminded by Dr. Kempner that he had been in charge of the case of Carl von Ossietzky who was arrested by the Gestapo.

"Do you know", Dr. Kempner asked, "that many of these 'Schutzhaeflinge' died in the concentration camps or—as the official version read—were 'shot while trying to escape'?" "This I cannot imagine", Best replied.

MARGOT LIPTON.

Indemnification Payments

Latest Statistics

A recent issue of the Deutschland-Berichte (Bonn), a bulletin on German-Israeli relations, carries a report by the German Ministry of Finances about indemnification and reparation payments. The report states that until 1970 the payments under the Federal Indemnification Law (BEG) amounted to 27.242 million DM and those under the Federal Restitution Law (BRueG) to 3.257 million DM. Of the BEG payments one third went to Israeli residents, one third to victims in other countries and one third to German residents. The corresponding figures for BRueG payments are 40 per cent to Israel, 35 per cent to other countries, and 25 per cent to German residents.

As far as the number of settled and unsettled claims is concerned, Ministerialdirektor Dr. Feaux de la Croix of the Finance Ministry stated in the report: "Considering the difficulties in obtaining the necessary documents it is satisfactory that only 5 per cent of the BEG cases are still undecided." This means in absolute figures that of a total of 4.216.000 cases 4.015.000 have been decided and 201.000 cases are still pending. The total number of BRueG claims, submitted until December 31, 1969, amounted to 691.530, of which 549.682 have been decided leaving a balance of 141.848 (i.e. 20.5 per cent) unsettled cases.

The total payments until 1970 amounted to 37.849 million DM; these include in addition to BEG and BRueG payments other kinds of individual indemnification payments (e.g. to public servants) as well as global payments (e.g. to Israel).

It is expected that the payments will rise by a further 8.251 million DM in the course of the next five years, bringing them to a total of 46,100 million DM in 1975. To this sum current payments still to be made after 1975 have to be added. They are estimated at 16.000 million DM, thus raising the total German payments to a final figure of about 62.000 million DM.

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HOME NEWS

ANGLO-JUDAICA

ISRAEL'S NEW AMBASSADOR

Mr. Michael Comay is Israel's new Ambassador to the Court of St. James's. Like two other top Israeli diplomats, Mr. Abba Eban and Mr. Arthur Lourie, he was born in South Africa and came to the diplomatic service after the Zionist movement and the political department of the Jewish Agency. He went to Palestine in 1946 as the special representative of the South African Zionist Federation. His diplomatic career has included the directorship of the British Commonwealth section of the Foreign Ministry, an ambassadorship to Canada and a seven-year term of service as Israel's chief representative to the United Nations; thereafter becoming political adviser to the Foreign Ministry and Ambassador-at-large.

The former Israeli military attaché in London, Colonel Aharon Avnon, who returned home after two years' service, has been appointed military secretary of the Israeli Defence Forces, and promoted brigadier-general. Major-General Eyal, who succeeds him, is one of the few Israelis who have met and talked with Nasser. The incident occurred during the Israeli War of Independence in 1948, when an Egyptian force was trapped by the Israelis in Sinai. Amongst a group of Egyptians who came to discuss the hospital treatment of a wounded Egyptian officer whom the Israelis captured was, states General Eyal, a tall, handsome captain, called Nasser. After a half-hour discussion during which Nasser asked General Eyal (then a Major) questions about various aspects of the newly-emerging State of Israel, Captain Nasser departed remarking: "One day we will be good friends".

ARMS FROM LONDON

A recent consignment of arms was seized at Amman airport after arriving there from London. Special branch officers in London believe that this may indicate that there is a large organisation in the British capital shipping arms to the Middle East. It is understood the police are making inquiries in many countries to discover the source and destination of the arms, which may be going to Arab terrorist units.

ACTION GROUP

The International Jewish Defence League has been formed to "awaken the Jewish community from its apathy" towards Jews in trouble in the world. The group has circulated its aims to all the major Jewish organisations and to the Jewish press, but it is not known how it is to achieve these aims. Led by three men, two of whom are London taxi drivers, the League has introduced itself as an active and sincere body of dignified Jews, wishing to draw attention to the continued persecution of fellow Jews within the Soviet block, and also to other incidents. They feel that the problems facing Jews throughout the world need solidarity within the Jewish communities, and they ask for all co-operation in a just and dignified fight.

Stating that they are non-political and non-fund-raising, the League says they wish to wear their heritage with pride and keep fellow Jews free from fear. According to the organisers, they do not have members but claim to have more than 100 supporters in all walks of life.

NATIONAL FRONT CANDIDATES

In two parliamentary by-elections in London the Right-wing National Front movement is putting up candidates. These are Marylebone, where the seat became vacant on the elevation of Mr. Quintin Hogg, Q.C., to the Lords as Lord Chancellor, and Enfield West.

The National Democratic Party, a smaller Right-wing group, is also contesting Marylebone.

HONOURS LIST

Mr. John Diamond, the former Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the only Cabinet Minister to lose his seat at the general election, was made a life peer in Mr. Wilson's dissolution honours list. Mr. Leslie Lever, the former Labour MP for Ardwick who retired at the election, and Dr. Joseph Stone, for 20 years Mr. Wilson's personal medical adviser, were knighted. A knighthood also went to Mr. Joseph Kagan, founder of the Gannex Raincoat Company, as reported in our last issue. The O.B.E. was awarded to Mr. Alfred Richman, a political reporter on the *Daily Mirror*.

ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY

Mr. Alexander Isserlis has been appointed an assistant under-secretary at the Home Office. He will take charge of the community relations department there. Formerly Mr. Isserlis was principal private secretary to Mr. Harold Wilson in the Labour Government.

BBC CONSULTANT

Professor Elihu Katz, of the Hebrew University's sociology department, has been appointed as a consultant by the BBC for a survey it is carrying out into the effects of violence on television. The professor was temporary head of Israeli TV when the service first started.

G.P.s' NEGOTIATOR

The five-man negotiating team for general practitioners in the United Kingdom includes Dr. Jack E. Miller, president of the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council. The team has been appointed by the British Medical Association to negotiate with the Government on all aspects of the work of family doctors in the National Health Service.

For a second year, Dr. Miller has also been re-elected chairman of the Scottish General Medical Services Committee.

JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL CLINIC

The dormitory wing in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Clinic at the Ravenswood Village was dedicated at a service of consecration conducted by Rabbi Dr. E. Newman and the Rev. I. Livingstone, of the Golders Green Synagogue. Mrs. Sylvia Mackover donated the wing, which was named and dedicated in memory of her late husband, Mr. Samuel Mackover.

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Hostel for Handicapped

The Jewish Welfare Board is backing a plan for a £100,000 hostel for the care of the educationally sub-normal. A number of Jewish parents, worried about what happens to their children after their death, approached the board for help. It is not intended initially to build a hostel but to encourage self-help and, for this purpose, the board has arranged a special seminar at which parents can air their problems.

Plan for Primary School

The Waltham Forest Synagogue, which runs a small Jewish primary school for 80 children, has been told by the Department of Education and Science that it will consider an application for a new school if there are 250 potential pupils. The Department would pay 80 per cent of the cost, estimated at over £50,000, and the local authorities have already promised financial assistance.

Youthful Reader

The Golders Green Synagogue has appointed 18-year-old Rev. Meir Finkelstein as reader. Eighty-five-year-old Rev. Isaac Livingstone, the congregation's emeritus minister, said that had he been consulted he would have advised appointing someone older as a more experienced person was needed. The congregation elected Mr. Finkelstein by 76 votes to ten and its minister, Rabbi Dr. Eugene Newman, stated that he felt the new reader would carry out his duties with ability and dignity. Mr. Finkelstein was formerly reader of the Jesmond Hebrew Congregation, Newcastle and the Pollokshields Synagogue, Glasgow.

"Converting Jews to Judaism"

Speaking at the Hendon Synagogue on "Converting Jews to Judaism" Mr. Abraham Isaac Carmel, a Catholic priest who converted to Judaism, deplored the "sinful neglect" of Jewish education. This had resulted in two million Jews in America having no religious identity. Mr. Carmel also attacked the disease of "Barmitzva-itis," which started with a boy being forced into singing his portion, followed by a five-year vacuum in which no Jewish education was provided.

Synagogue Fire

Fire raging in a room behind the Ark caused 700 congregants to be evacuated from the Hendon Synagogue. The sifrei Torah were removed from the Ark and the Sabbath morning service was continued after 20 minutes in the adjoining community centre. A number of Ark curtains and books valued at several hundred pounds were completely destroyed. The fire, believed to have been started by children, was contained within half an hour. Arson is definitely not suspected.

Coventry Synagogue Centenary

Coventry Synagogue has celebrated its centenary. Like many other small communities throughout Britain, the Coventry Jewish community is striving to maintain continuity in religious services, and a viable Jewish social and cultural life for its members. Many members are ageing, while others are forced to attend to their businesses on Saturdays. Unless the drift of young people away from Coventry to the larger centres of Jewish population is halted and unless more Jews come to settle in Coventry, it will become increasingly difficult to carry on.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

MONTREAL OPPOSES "VIGILANTES"

A statement issued by the Canadian Jewish Congress opposes the Jewish Defence League, the self-appointed guardian of Jewish lives and property in North American cities, with headquarters in New York.

Mr. Monroe Abbey, the president of the congress, who issued the statement also on behalf of B'nai B'rith, condemned the League's methods, "including the use of violence to combat antisemitism," and rejected "appeals to extremism and para-military tactics". The community recognised that there were "sporadic incidents of antisemitism" in Canada, and expressed their confidence in the police to prevent them and effectively to deal with them when they occurred.

The League's Montreal chapter, formed at the end of last year, claims "several hundred" members. Some of these took over the offices of Aeroflot, the Soviet airline, to protest against Moscow's refusal to allow Soviet Jews to leave Russia. Seven were arrested and charged with disturbing the peace.

JAPANESE KIBBUTZIM

A leading member of Yamagishizumu Kibbutz on Hokkaido Island who visited Israel has said that 30 kibbutzim have been established in Japan and another 20 in South Korea. There are plans to open other kibbutzim in all parts of Japan. The Japanese kibbutz movement was non-political but wanted to keep in touch with all political parties. The Ministry of Agriculture at first refused financial aid, regarding the movement as communistic, but loans have now been granted by the Government and the banks.

VIENNA DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

Lord Janner chairman of the Board of Deputies, and Mr. Abraham Marks, the board's secretary, comprised a delegation from the board which called on the Chargé d'Affaires at the Austrian Embassy in London. They voiced the concern of the community and Jewry elsewhere at the threat to close the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna.

An assurance has now been given by the Chargé d'Affaires at the embassy to Lord Janner that the Austrian Government "has no intention whatsoever" of closing the centre.

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ARGENTINA

Left Wing Threats

Dr. Jose Kestelman, the secretary-general of DAIA, the representative organisation of Argentine Jewry, spoke to delegates of 60 major institutions and communal organisations in Greater Buenos Aires and the provinces, and warned of the appearance of new "military-terrorist" organisations threatening the established order. Dr. Kestelman said that these groups were inspired by the New Left and the Arab League. But, said Dr. Kestelman, the majority were Christians and generally relations with the Jews were good.

Eichmann's Son Founds "Black Guard"

At a rally of the so-called National Socialist Front, a "Manifest" was adopted which is full of antisemitic tirades and, *inter alia*, refers to Jews and "other satanic powers" conspiring against the "aryan" people. The founder and "Commandant" of the organisation is the son of Adolf Eichmann who now calls himself Nicanaro Dorrego. He has built up a "Black Guard" after the SS pattern within his organisation.

Bomb Attack Plot

Before a Buenos Aires military court an army officer alleged that an ultra-nationalist Catholic military gang was responsible for the bomb attack on the Jewish community centre in La Plata in May. The officer, on trial for an irregularity in barracks, said he had been framed by this group because he refused to participate in their conspiracies. He said that the La Plata attack was the first of a series planned by the group with plastic bombs of "great power" instead of the "home-made" product formerly used by "old-style" antisemites such as Tacuara and GRN. He stated that the group was linked with fascist and pro-Nazi elements, members of which included Bruno Genta, a known ultra-Right-winger, and Father Carlos Mugica, a Catholic priest.

SOUTH AFRICA

Memorial Shrine

In Johannesburg a shrine has been opened to the memory of the six million martyrs of the Holocaust. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Katriel Katz, chairman of Yad Vashem, the Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem and former Israeli Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr. S. van Niekerk, the Administrator of the Transvaal, attended the ceremony, together with members of the diplomatic corps and leading South Africans of all faiths.

Magazine in Afrikaans

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies is to publish a quarterly magazine in Afrikaans entitled *Buurman* (Neighbour). The object is "to provide Afrikaans readers with an insight into Jewish life and culture" and "to give Jews an understanding and appreciation of the Afrikaans-speaking people."

PRAGUE BARMITZVAH

For the first time in ten years a barmitzvah has been celebrated in Prague's Altneuschul. According to a visitor to Czechoslovakia, the service was conducted by Mr. Thomas Salamon, a rabbinical student at the Leo Baeck College in London.

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JEWRY IN THE EAST

ALEXANDER GINSBURG

Alexander Ginsburg, the Soviet Jewish writer and poet sentenced to five years' imprisonment in 1968 for anti-Soviet activities, has been moved from a labour camp to a top security prison. The activities for which he was sentenced included the publication and dissemination of a "White Book" on the trial in 1966 of the writers Andrei Sinyavsky and Yuli Daniel (also a Jew). Together with some fellow-inmates, Ginsburg wrote a letter from the Potma labour camp to a group of Soviet writers about the plight of political prisoners in the Soviet Union, the contents of which were recorded and broadcast in the United States. Because of this he was transferred from Potma to the Vladimir prison in northern Russia. British television viewers were able to hear the contents of Ginsburg's letter on a special "24 Hours" programme recently broadcast on BBC-1.

FURTHER ARRESTS

The Soviet authorities have arrested five Jews, three of whom were signatories to appeals published in the West demanding the right to settle in Israel.

Semyon Burshtein, one of the prisoners, in June this year addressed a letter to U Thant, the UN Secretary-General, pointing out that he had been given permission to leave for Israel at the beginning of 1969. He had been advised by the authorities to give up his job and his apartment and to rid himself of all his belongings within three days. For one-and-a-half years he and his family waited without work and without documents or rights. Mr. Burshtein said he had addressed 49 appeals to various State leaders with no result.

AMNESTY PLEA

A campaign for the release of three Jews imprisoned in Russia for pro-Israel sympathies is to be launched by Amnesty International. Solomon Borisovich Dolnik, a retired engineer, was found guilty by a Moscow court in 1967 of spying for Israel. Boris L. Kochubevsky, from Kiev, was gaoled in May, 1969, for slandering the State after he refuted Soviet denunciations of Israel as "an aggressor". Mrs. Lilia Abramovna Ontmana, from the Ukraine, was sentenced to 2½ years last January, also on charges of slander and insulting the authorities. She renounced her Soviet citizenship after her repeated applications for permission to join her aged father in Israel were rejected.

Representations to Soviet authorities will be made by Amnesty groups for the release of these prisoners, and publicity given for their causes. Amnesty also intends investigating the cases of the Jews arrested after the alleged hijacking attempt in Leningrad. The organisation may adopt other cases where people have been imprisoned for attempting to emigrate to Israel.

A London architect, Mr Sidney Gabler, is conducting a one-man campaign to rescue a Jewish architect from Riga, Mr. Georgiy S. Mintz, whose application to emigrate to Israel was rejected. Mr. Mintz was one of 28 Riga Jews who signed an appeal to the West for assistance in an attempt to obtain exit permits. Mr. Michael Foot, M.P., has agreed to join in any appeal to rescue Mr. Mintz and his family.

APPEAL FROM MINSK

A collective letter has been written by 15 Soviet Jews from Minsk to Mrs. Golda Meir, asking for her help in leaving the Soviet Union for Israel. The writers stated they had repeatedly but unsuccessfully applied to the Soviet authorities for several years for permission to leave. Many of the signatories, said the letter, had been subjected to reprisals. The petitioners asked Mrs. Meir to transmit their letter to international authorities and circulate it at the UN Human Rights Commission.

This year and in 1969 several groups of Soviet Jews have written to Mrs. Meir and the UN asking for help in obtaining permission to emigrate to Israel.

Herbert Freedman (Jerusalem)

BONN AND JERUSALEM

Each of the four Chancellors of the German Federal Republic set the stamp of his personality on Germany's attitude toward Israel. Adenauer felt a special relationship, stemming from the Holocaust and German moral obligations; Erhardt established diplomatic relations with Israel at the price of severing them with almost all Arab countries; Kiesinger prided himself on "normalising" these relations, thereby cancelling Israel's special status. Brandt's policy is still in flux. There are observers who think that in the Middle East conflict West Germany is gradually shifting from a "benevolent neutrality" *vis-à-vis* Israel to an "objective neutrality."

The experience with the British Labour Party has made Jewish leaders cautious in their predictions of social democratic policy. When Labour was in Opposition, it was Zionism's best friend; when it came to power—under Attlee and Wilson—the story read quite differently. Nothing comparable has happened yet in the case of Kanzler Brandt whose integrity and anti-Nazi record would make him an ideal partner. Ironically enough, just his clean past and the absence of personal guilt complexes make him see Israel free of sentiment and personal involvement, thus speeding up the process of "normalisation."

Much has changed recently in the Federal Republic. The somewhat forced and artificial philo-semitism of the early post-war years has given way to indifference; the solidarity with Israel of the June days 1967 has been replaced by a more critical mood. The German brand of the New Left, now more influential than under Christian-Democratic governments, is known for its extreme anti-Israel slant, with anti-Jewish undertones. It is no coincidence that four of its most militant leaders—Horst Mahler, Andreas Baader, Ulrike Meinhoff and Gudrun von Essling—after having escaped the German judiciary found a refuge with the Arab guerrillas in Jordan. Even if one does not attach too great a political importance to threats and acts of violence against Jewish people and institutions in Berlin, Munich and elsewhere they could not have happened but for an atmosphere of remarkable tolerance against leftist outrages.

Israel has always respected Bonn's desire to improve relations with the Arab world as long as Israel has not to pay for them. Purely pragmatic steps in this direction, motivated by commercial interests would have been understandable; however, Bonn lays herself open to suspicion when an emotional note creeps in and German officials speak of the "traditional German-Arab friendship". It is difficult not to recall markstones of this tradition, such as the Mufti's audience with Hitler, Eichmann's visit to Palestine, Rashid Ali's rebellion in Iraq and, more recently, the German experts guiding Egypt's rocket manufacture in Heliopolis.

Although the German press, on the whole, continues to show understanding for Israel's position, political commentators of the State-owned television services display an increasingly hostile trend. Still remembered is also the uncalled-for statement by Government spokesman Conrad Ahlers condemning Israel's retaliation action against the Lebanon. According to unconfirmed but persistent rumours Foreign Minister Walter Scheel, at the recent NATO meeting, came out against further deliveries of American war planes to Israel

and subscribed to the postulate of total Israel withdrawal from the occupied territories.

It is too early yet to gauge the repercussions of West Germany's "opening to the East". There are anxieties in Jerusalem that the "new chapter in the relationship between the Federal Republic and the Soviet Union" will colour her outlook on the Middle East. Even if the Arab-Israeli conflict was not a subject of the Moscow discussions—which is to be doubted—the new pact with Russia is bound to affect Bonn's independent stand in this issue.

Mr. Eban, in one statement, denied that Bonn's new "Ostpolitik" would influence her close bonds with Israel. "It is not for the Israeli Government to comment on the Federal Government's desire to place her relations with its eastern neighbour on a new basis". In another statement, however, he warned a visiting delegation of the "German-Israel Society" that Soviet pressure in the Middle East must have an adverse effect on the European scene, including Germany. Should the Soviets gain the upper hand in this part of the world, Mr. Eban said, then the consequences for the whole European Continent would be far-reaching.

(An article by the chairman of the German-Israel Society, Mr. Ernst Benda, is referred to on page 12 of this issue—The Ed.)

HANS GAL 80

The composer and musicologist, Hans Gal, O.B.E., recently became 80 years old. Born in Bruenn, he taught at Vienna University from 1923 to 1929, and at the Staetische Musik-hochschule in Mainz until 1933. Gal contributed to the Fischer-Buecherei monographs on Brahms (1961) and Wagner (1963) which will shortly be followed by a work on Schubert. He also has several operas, orchestral, chamber music and choral works to his credit.

E.G.L.

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Old Acquaintances

News from Everywhere: The remains of Kurt Schwitters, the poet-painter of "Anna Blume" fame who died as a pauper in England in 1948 at the age of 61, will be exhumed and buried in his home town of Hanover.—Germany's tallest mountain, the Zugspitze, is to be made "duty free," as Helgoland.—Haus Carow, a cabaret in Gatow near Berlin named after its founder, Erich Carow the folk comedian, has closed down.

Milestones: Hans Casparius, who worked as a photographer for G. W. Pabst and was on safari with Arnold Hoellriegel, is now managing director of London's European Liszt Centre. He has just celebrated his 70th birthday.—Ernst Krenek, of "Jonny spielt auf" fame, who survived the Nazi regime in the States where he was a lecturer, is 70 years of age. He returned to Germany a few years ago.—Kurt Hiller, who worked for Sturm and Pan and edited Die Aktion, has turned 85 years old. Now living in Hamburg, he spent the war years in England.

Perhaps of Interest: Rolf Hochhuth, who still maintains that Polish General Sikorski was killed on the order of the British Government, dedicated the book edition of his new play, "Guerillas", to Leo Mathias, a former refugee who some years ago wrote an anti-American book.—Hildegard Knef, who was a film star in Germany and abroad and is now a diseuse, has published her autobiography, "Der geschenkte Gaul", in which she makes fun of the English accent her first husband Kurt Hirsch, her agent and other refugees have acquired. She seems surprised that her Jewish in-laws disliked and mistrusted one in their own family who had just had an affair with von Demandowsky, a high Nazi official.—Arno Reinfrank will read from his works at the German Institute (51 Princes Gate, S.W.7) on October 8.

Austria: Hilde Spiel, who left London to settle in Vienna, received the Critics Prize from the City of Salzburg.—Oskar Werner's "Hamlet" was not successfully received in Salzburg.—The Viennese Library is to be the beneficiary of F. Th. Csokor's literary estate.—Boy Gobert will direct Hasenclever's "Ein besserer Herr" at the Akademie-Theater.—"Koenigin Christine" is to be produced by Lindtberg at the Burg.

Books and Authors: Willi Frischauer of London, whose biography of the Aga Khan will shortly be published, has been commissioned to write David Frost's biography.—Richard Tauber's widow, Diana Napier, is writing a new biography about the tenor, to be published next May on what would have been his 80th birthday.—Hans Habe of Ascona is writing a book about Israel.—Robert Muller's new novel, "Love Life", has been published by Hutchinson.—In Salzburg Carl Zuckmayer disclosed that he is working on a new play and a book of prose.

Germany: Erich Fried's adaptation of "Othello" will be produced in Heidelberg.—Ruth Berghaus, wife of composer Paul Dessau, has become a co-director of East Germany's Berliner Ensemble.—Peter Zadek is to direct the film of Thomas Mann's "Zauberberg".—Edward Rother, formerly of the German section of the BBC, is directing "Stephan Orbok", with Ida Ehre, in Hamburg.—Ursula Grabley is appearing in "Unsere liebe Freundin" in Godesberg.—Marika Rokk stars in "Hello, Dolly" in Hamburg.—Egon Seefehlner is to succeed G. R. Sellner as West Berlin's opera director.

PEM

F. Thorn

"SOME ACHIEVE GREATNESS..."

Berthold Viertel's Life in the Theatre

Berthold Viertel was born in Vienna 85 years ago as the son of a Jewish businessman from Tarnow. He studied in Vienna and Zurich and became—"hier stock' ich schon". Did he become a writer? A poet? A critic? A theatre manager? A translator? A discoverer? Or simply the first director in what was to be called "The Director's Theatre"? He was, of course, all that and more, theatre (and film) was for him a living unity of all things in just the same way as war and life and the arts were an entity for the Princes of Florence.

He will be remembered, however, as a director who absorbed many influences without succumbing to them, and who tolerated no other leadership than the leadership of time—although quite often it was he who led, with no other guidance than the meaning of The Word. He will be remembered as the director whose quest for the essence of dramatic expression led him from Euripides to Tennessee Williams and who found it in both. He might also be remembered as a man of controversial and contestable political leanings. They will, however, not matter much in his particular case because of his purity as an artist.

In the theatre Viertel was not a revolutionary. There were greater and bolder innovators and some of them—Vakhtangov for instance and Copeau and Artaud—are not even mentioned in his writings, and Gordon Craig is dealt with *en passant*. But Viertel belonged to the *avant-garde* in a deeper sense, as the great "stabiliser", the great guardian of those values which were meant to last. He made them last. And he swept away the silly concept of a "zeitlose Kunst", still lingering here and there and responsible for the present stage of the Present Stage in many a town.

Between 1913 and 1953, the year of his death, Viertel produced almost 90 plays, directed 15 films and published a fantastic amount of essays, critical assessments and poems—a

list of these alone fills nearly 16 pages of bibliographical notes. Although the book under review* deals with the theatre only—seemingly narrowing its scope to the most fertile field of his activities—it is so vast and comprehensive a study, that any quotation, however meaningful, would only detract from the rest. (A first volume of Viertel's collected works appeared in 1956, edited by Ernst Ginsberg, while Viertel was still alive, also with Kösel, under the title "Dichtungen und Dokumente").

Here he writes "Ueber Dramen" and "Ueber Dramatiker", "Zur Dramentheorie" and "Ueber Schauspielhäuser und Theaterstädte", and about actors, directors, critics and actors again, and the world of the theatre is rebuilt before our eyes as if we had never seen it before. His powerful language grew under the influence of his lifelong friend Karl Kraus—he was one of the early contributors to the "Fackel" when Kraus still had contributors—but nowhere is a trace of Kraus's diction and style to be found. It became a precision tool Viertel alone could handle. Few people, for instance, will remember Paul Raynal's "Grabmal des unbekanntenen Soldaten", but what Viertel had to say about it will remain:

"Darin scheinen sich die Ueberlebenden des Weltkriegs einig zu sein: dass man ihn vergessen haben muss, um weiterleben zu können. So wie man diesen Krieg schönfärben musste, um ihn ertragen zu können, solange er als gewalttätige Gegenwart auf der Menschheit lag, wie ein blutiges Ungeheuer aus Urzeiten. Und jedes Bild, das sich einer Menschenphantasie aufdrängt, um die Greuel dieses Krieges auszudrücken, bleibt der unausdenkbaren Wucht der Tatsachen gegenüber ein für allemal doch wieder nur Schönfärberei: ob man nun sich einen Drachen vorstellt, ein unerbittliches Ungetüm von sagenhaften Ausmassen, welches eine Generation zum Frasse verlangt und erhalten hat; oder ob man an eine Epidemie denkt, die sich unaufhaltsam zu Ende rasen musste, nicht nur das Blut, sondern auch die Gehirne vergiftend; Tod bringend nicht nur dem einzelnen Menschen, sondern auch der Menschlichkeit! . . ."

How many critics found that sort of a "lead" for their review?

So I did quote after all, if only to show the fervour of his human involvement which penetrates, permeates everything he wrote: production notes to Faust II and Brecht's "Private Life of the Master Race" (Furcht und Elend des Dritten Reiches) as well as a short paragraph about the Viennese actor, Hans Lackner,

* Berthold Viertel, *Schriften zum Theater*. Kösel-Verlag, Munich. 575 pp. DM.32.

who did not belong to the great stars of the 'thirties but whom Viertel admired all the same (as does the present writer, by the way). Incidentally, it was the production of Raynal's "Grabmal" which a contemporary critic called not *Regie* any more, but . . . a "geistiges Bekenntnis, das unmittelbar Bühnenform erhalten [habe] . . . nicht mehr Körperregie, sondern Seelenregie . . .".

I mentioned a few strange omissions in Viertel's mighty panorama; there are also a few astonishing misapprehensions—at least from our standpoint. He dislikes Pirandello (or what he calls *Pirandellismus*) and blames the Italian and Priestley alike for not being able to distinguish between Illusion and Reality, as if the confusion had been theirs and not the discovery of a confusion. . . . He dedicates the most lucid and the most loving of all studies to Stanislavsky, but ignores—or pretends to ignore—the fatal consequences of his "Method" in the United States. In fact he gives Harold Clurman credit for the discovery of Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" and does not want to see, where this "bis zum Bersten pralle Naturalismus" led. But Viertel, the man of the Left, was also one of the first to protect Schiller against Piscator. . . .

Contradictions and omissions, creed and doubt and all the outpourings of a man in love with the theatre lead us back to the very first question: Who was Berthold Viertel, he who stood for so many things? It would be easy to say that like all truly great men he stood for himself. He also stood for the greatest possible amount of purity in a thoroughly rotten and decaying time. This he found in Word and Action on the stage. Perhaps his own words throw a little more light on the origin of his search:

"Es ist merkwürdig genug: man kann oft von der Vorgeschichte eines jüdischen Menschen so wenig Bestimmtes sagen, aber einiges ganz bestimmt. Er ist ein Jude, also ist er aus der Geschichte herausgeworfen—und doch, auf schwierigen Wegen, in die Geschichte wieder hineingebracht."

This very beautiful book has been edited by Gert Heidenreich with all the love and care it deserves. Could he please note in the next edition that "Journey's End" (Die andere Seite) is not by Sean O'Casey but by Robert Sheriff? (p. 503).

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LASTENAUSGLEICH

Fristablauf beachten!

Wir weisen darauf hin, dass am 31. Dezember 1970 die Frist zur Anmeldung aller Lastenausgleichsansprüche mit einer nachher zu erwähnenden Ausnahme abläuft. Es handelt sich hier um zwei Gruppen:

1. **Kriegssachschäden in der Bundesrepublik und in Westberlin.** Diese Kriegssachschäden werden im Lastenausgleichsverfahren in vielen Fällen schon vor einer Reihe von Jahren, nämlich im Anschluss an die Durchführung eines Rückerstattungsverfahrens, angemeldet worden sein. Trotzdem wird jeder Beteiligte ein Interesse daran haben, dies nachzuprüfen. Insbesondere mag in diesem Zusammenhang erwähnt werden, dass das Lastenausgleichsgesetz erst vom Jahre 1952 datiert, während die Rückerstattungs-gesetze fuer die damalige amerikanische und französische Zone Westdeutschlands bereits Ende 1949 und fuer die britische Zone und Westberlin anschliessend ebenfalls vor Erlass des Lastenausgleichsgesetzes herausgekommen sind. Gerade in denjenigen, wenn auch nicht allzu zahlreichen, Fällen, in denen es gelang, das Rückerstattungsverfahren bereits vor 1952 durchzuführen, besteht die Möglichkeit, dass die Anmeldung von Kriegsschäden übersehen worden ist. Wer sich durch Geldzahlung hat abfinden lassen und das Rückerstattungsobjekt nicht zurückgenommen hat, hat auch keinen Anspruch auf Lastenausgleich wegen des Kriegsschadens an dem Grundstück oder Geschäft. Es gibt aber Fälle, in denen die Berechtigten das Grundstück zurückgenommen und dann im unmittelbaren Anschluss weiterverkauft haben. In solchen Fällen steht der Kriegsschadensanspruch ihnen und nicht dem "Ariseur" oder dem Käufer zu. Ebenso gibt es Fälle, in denen im Rückerstat-

tungsvergleich der "Ariseur" sich verpflichtet hat, die Kriegsschadensansprüche ganz oder teilweise abzutreten. Dies mag auch gelegentlich in Vergessenheit geraten sein.

2. **Vertreibungsgebiete.** Bei der einige Jahre später erfolgten Regelung der Lastenausgleichsansprüche fuer die sogenannten Vertreibungsgebiete sind die Rückerstattungs-fälle aus diesen Gebieten eingeschlossen worden. Sie werden als "fiktive Vertreibungsschäden" bezeichnet, auch wenn es sich fuer den Laien um Kriegssachschäden handelt. Bei den Vertreibungsschäden handelt es sich zunächst einmal um die Nazi-Geschädigten aus den ehemaligen deutschen Ostgebieten, also aus Schlesien, der Grenzmark, Pommern, Westpreussen und Ostpreussen, abgesehen von den kleineren Teilen von Schlesien und Pommern, die zur Deutschen Demokratischen Republik geschlagen worden sind. Es handelt sich ferner aber auch um die Ansprüche deutscher Volkzugehöriger aus der Tschechoslowakei, Jugoslawien, Ungarn etc. Wer noch einen Lastenausgleichsanspruch wegen eines als Vertreibungsschaden geltenden Entziehungsschadens zu stellen hat, muss ebenfalls die Anmeldefrist zum 31. Dezember 1970 wahren. Die Frist ist unerheblich fuer eine dritte Gruppe, nämlich der Geschädigten aus dem Gebiet der DDR und aus Ostberlin, worueber weiter unten berichtet wird.

Berechtigte der ersten beiden Gruppen sollten sich beizeiten an einen Anwalt, der sich mit dem Gebiet des Lastenausgleichsrechts vertraut gemacht hat, oder an die United Restitution Organisation wenden und sich beraten lassen. Man muss bedenken, dass in den letzten Tagen vor dem Ablauf der Frist ueberall Andrang herrschen und die rechtzeitige Einreichung in Frage gestellt werden wird. Mit einer Fristverlaengerung ist nicht zu rechnen, und ihre Ueberschreitung wird nicht entschuldigt werden.

3. **Gebiet der DDR.** Hinsichtlich der Kriegsschäden in dem Gebiet der DDR und in Ostberlin, der sogenannten "Zonenschäden", haben wir in unserer Nummer vom August 1969 berichtet. Damals lag das 21. Aenderungsgesetz zum Lastenausgleichsgesetz vom 18. August 1969 vor, und wir mussten darauf hinweisen, dass dieses Gesetz, so wie es vorlag, so gut wie gar keinem unserer Freunde von Nutzen sein koennte. Dies lag daran, dass durch eine ganze Reihe von Klauseln im fiskalischen Interesse sichergestellt worden war, dass nur die "sozial Schwachen" Entschädigung erhalten und dass man bei der Bestimmung dieses Begriffs ausserordentlich kleinlich verfahren war. Wir wiesen damals darauf hin, dass erst nach Erlass einer erwarteten Rechtsverordnung sich ersehen lassen koennte, ob das Gesetz auch fuer diejenigen Geschädigten unseres Kreises, die nicht so gut wie mittellos sind, Bedeutung habe. Diese Rechtsverordnung ist damals nicht erlassen worden, vielmehr bis zu den deutschen Neuwahlen verschleppt worden. Die neue deutsche Regierung unter Bundeskanzler Brandt hat sich entschlossen, mit den Beschränkungen des 21. Aenderungsgesetzes aufzuraeumen. Sie hat ein neues Gesetz, das 23. Aenderungsgesetz, zum LAG entworfen, und dieser Entwurf ist auch am 15. August vom Bundesrat genehmigt worden. Die Beratung durch den Bundestag wird aber erst waehrend des Winter-Semesters erfolgen. Dies ist auch deshalb nicht schaedlich, weil die Anmeldefrist fuer diese Schaedten erst am 31. Dezember 1972 abläuft.

Wir halten es im allgemeinen nicht fuer zweckmaessig, ueber Gesetzentwerfe, die noch geaendert werden koennen, zu berichten. So viel mag aber gesagt sein, dass der vorliegende Regierungsentwurf alle Beschränkungen auf die sogenannten "sozial Schwachen" beseitigt und nur eine Beschränkung des alten Gesetzes beibehalten hat, nämlich dass der Hoechstbetrag der sogenannten Hauptentschädigung DM 50.000 betraegt. Es wird abzuwarten sein, ob in der Bundestagsberatung die vorgenommenen Verbesserungen aufrecht erhalten werden, was man nur hoffen kann, und ob auch die letzte erwahnte Beschränkung fallen wird, was wir hoffen wollen, worueber sich aber noch nichts sagen laesst.

Wenn auch nun fuer diese Art Schaden die Anmeldefrist erst 1972 abläuft, so heisst das nicht, dass man wegen dieser Ansprüche nichts veranlassen soll. Im Gegenteil, es ist nunmehr wirklich dringend, dass alle, die als Berechtigte in Frage kommen, das Material zusammentragen und, wie schon erwahnt, in sachverstaendige Haende geben. Mit jedem Jahr und jedem Monat, der vergeht, werden die Schwierigkeiten groesser: die Erinnerung leidet, alte Leute sterben und die Juengeren kennen die Vorgaenge nicht aus eigener Erfahrung, Unterlagen gehen verloren, Zeugen verschwinden oder vergessen. Darueber, ob es schon angebracht ist, Formulare einzureichen, muss die Entscheidung jeweils nach Lage des Falles den zugezogenen sachverstaendigen Stellen ueberlassen bleiben.

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THE JEWS OF WEST PRUSSIA

Because Posen and West Prussia, the two former Polish provinces which provided German Jewry with such an important reservoir of population and cultural hinterland in the 19th and early 20th centuries, are generally thought of as a single unit, the differences between them will come as a surprise to many of those who trace their family origins to this area. These differences are made very clear in a book recently published by the Herder-Institut of Marburg, the first full-scale study of the Jews of West Prussia.*

While some of the Jewish communities of Posen go back to the very beginning of Jewish settlement in Poland, those of West Prussia are, for the most part, far more recent creations. Most of them, in fact, owe their existence to Frederick the Great. When the territory was annexed in 1772, the Prussian authorities found a Jewish population of some 3,600. A third of them lived in three Danzig suburbs. The remainder, with few exceptions, lived in rural settlements under the protection of the local nobility. This peculiar pattern was a consequence of the political and economic distinctiveness which the Province had managed to maintain under Polish rule. Frederick the Great, who considered this mediæval situation an anomaly, introduced the principles of the Prussian *General-Judenreglement* of 1750, with its system of *Schutzjuden* and subsidiary categories. Those who had the necessary means or qualifications were allowed to remain in the Danzig suburbs or to settle in other towns, not without some local opposition. Those who did not were classed as *Betteljuden* and apparently expelled. This was more than an attempt to "assimilate" the new province. It also had a specific economic motive, as part of the King's attempt to divert trade from Danzig and Thorn, which remained in Polish hands until 1793, to the towns under his rule. The Jews, he felt, had an important role to play in this campaign, particularly those of the new town of Stolzenberg which was specially formed out of Danzig's suburbs.

Aschkewitz deals fairly briefly with the first forty years of Prussian rule. The main body of his work is devoted to developments after 1815. After the Napoleonic Wars, the Province was extended to include the *Kreise* of Deutsch-Krone and Flatow, with their large, well-established communities of the usual Polish type prevalent in Posen. This was the area where large-scale emigration to the West began. Most of the rest of the Province continued to attract more Jews than it lost until the middle of the century. This was particularly true of the Kulmerland, where immigration from across the Polish border caused the Jewish population to treble in a generation. Interestingly enough the city of Danzig did not follow the general trend. After the siege of 1813, it did not seem to attract new Jewish settlers on any scale for more than a century.

In most of the smaller communities, emigration apparently began to exceed immigration in the 1840s and 1850s. The Province's Jewish population was halved between 1871 and 1910. After this the decline was even more rapid. Only a third of those who lived in the area which was returned to Poland were still there in 1921. Probably over half of these emigrated in the following ten years, but the loss was more than offset by immigration from other parts of Poland.

Although Aschkewitz's book has chapters on communal, educational, legal and economic developments, of which the last two are particularly interesting, they tend to be overshadowed by demographic details based on census material or taken from local histories which themselves rely heavily on censuses. Interesting though these details are, one wishes that their implications had been examined more fully and that more of an attempt had been made to relate them to their general economic, social and political context. Why, for example, did the Jewish population of one town increase by 40% during a particular period while that of a neighbour decreased by 10%? A few of the answers to questions of this sort can be found in other parts of the book, but many cannot. Occasionally one feels that it would have been helpful if the author had presented even more of the statistical data available to him. Thus, although we are given a detailed account of the decline of the Jewish population between 1910 and 1921 in the area returned to Poland, we are not told how many Jews in each locality gave their mother-tongue as Yiddish in 1921. This can be ascertained from the Polish census records. It would have shown that the emigration of the "old" Jewish population was on an even larger scale than Aschkewitz's figures indicate. It would also have told us something of the "new" immigration from other parts of Poland which was just beginning.

Above all, one wishes that Aschkewitz had been able to tell us more about developments between 1772 and 1815, the period during which most of West Prussia's communities were established. This would have entailed going beyond published books and articles to archival sources. Perhaps the relevant archives no longer exist, in which case one can hardly blame the author. A number of interesting questions come to mind. To what extent was the original pattern of settlement determined by Frederick the Great's attempt to divert trade from Danzig and Thorn, and to what extent was this pattern later modified by the failure of his policy? Where did the new settlers come from? Were the Prussian authorities quite as successful in expelling the

Province's rural *Betteljuden* as official dispatches to Berlin maintained? In passing, the author mentions a vagrant Jewish proletariat which caused serious problems for the established communities. What was the origin of this proletariat? Did it consist entirely of the déclassé descendants of *Schutzjuden*? Perhaps further research will eventually provide at least some of the answers.

E. G. Lowenthal

RESCUED FROM OBLIVION

Kurt Zielenziger (1890-1944)

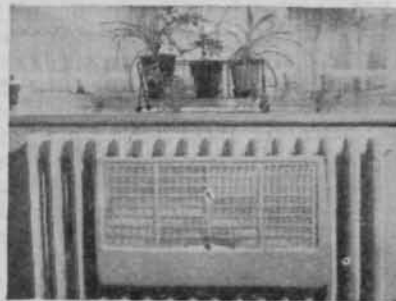
Kurt Zielenziger's forebears undoubtedly derived their name from the small Brandenburg township of Zielenzig. According to the "Judenbuergerbuecher," an indispensable source for tracing the history of Berlin Jews, the Zielenzigers hailed, in fact, from the Altmark (Arneburg). They had been residents of Berlin since 1840. The second generation of the family included i.a. Julius Zielenziger, born at Potsdam in 1856, town councillor and member of the synagogue council executive, and "Kommerzienrat" Alfred Zielenziger, born in 1861, who grew up in Frankfurt/Oder and later became a grain merchant and vice-president of the Berlin Stock Exchange.

Kurt Zielenziger, a representative of the third generation, was deputy press chief of the city of Berlin until 1933. From 1935 to 1939 he occupied a senior position in the Jewish Central Information Office in Amsterdam. The National-Socialists deprived him of his German citizenship in November, 1939, and in 1943 he was taken from the Dutch camp Westerbork to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where he perished in July of the following year.

It seemed as if the name of this once-well-known man had been forgotten, erased even from scientific literature, when suddenly there appeared a lavishly produced, unabbreviated new facsimile edition of his first important publication on "Die alten deutschen Kameralisten, ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der National-oekonomie und zum Problem des Merkantilismus", a work which was based on his doctor thesis submitted in Freiburg in 1913. It was originally published in 1914 by Gustav Fischer in Jena. This firm, now domiciled in Stuttgart, gave its permission for a new edition and the Frankfurt Publishing House of Sauer and Auvermann K.-G. decided to reprint it in view of the demand for this long-since unobtainable work, apparently the most comprehensive so far. Hence the new edition was prompted by purely factual and practical considerations.

Zielenziger's friends, however, are much affected by the reappearance of this book; they are pleased that in this way the author who brought out other publications of lasting value, has been rescued from oblivion. They remember him and his work well; he was a man of great amiability and sterling qualities and his friends want to see his memory preserved and cultivated. Everything Zielenziger wrote in the time from just before the First World War to the beginning of the Second shows that he was an expert economist with a marked sense of history and politics and a bent for statistics. We refer not only to his still topical and much-consulted publication, "Die Juden in der deutschen Wirtschaft", published in Berlin in 1930, or to his articles in the Jewish monthly, "Der Morgen" and the "C.-V. Zeitung." He also contributed treatises to the *Handwoerterbuch der Staatswissenschaften* and other manuals. As late as 1937 he published an essay entitled "The Emigration of German Jews since 1933", in the journal "Population" (Allen & Unwin, London).

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* Max Aschkewitz: *Zur Geschichte der Juden in Westpreussen*. Marburg/Lahn, Johann Gottfried Herder-Institut (Wissenschaftliche Beiträge zur Geschichte und Landeskunde Ost-Mitteleuropas, Nr. 81.)

IN MEMORIAM

ERNST LEMMER

The German politician and publicist, Ernst Lemmer, recently died at the age of 72. He started his activities as a fighter for a democratic Germany in his student days and, in 1924, became the youngest member of the Reichstag. He held his seat until 1933. When the Nazis came to power, Lemmer was forbidden to write for German papers and became a correspondent for foreign newspapers. After the war, he was a co-founder of the CDU and later elected a Berlin deputy to the Bonn parliament. He held several ministerial posts and, in this capacity, always displayed particular understanding for the victims of Nazi persecution. During the last years of his life, his health deteriorated but he continued to take an active part in German politics.

DR. JULIE MEYER-FRANK

Dr. Julie Meyer-Frank (formerly Nuernberg) died in New York at the age of 73. She was well known in Southern Germany by her leading activities in the German Democratic Party and the Central-Verein. She also lectured at the Municipal Volkshochschule and the Nuernberg School for Social Workers. In 1937, she emigrated to the U.S. where she succeeded in building up a new career for herself. She became a Full Professor of Economics at the New School of Social Research and established a reputation for herself as a specialist for Labour Relations. During her 30 years' activities as a lecturer she excelled by her personal contacts with her students. She retired in 1967. A vivacious and sincere personality, Julie Meyer will be remembered by all who knew her.

PROF. MORRIS GINSBERG

The distinguished sociologist and social philosopher, Professor Morris Ginsberg, died on August 31 at the age of 81. He was emeritus professor at London University where, at the London School of Economics, he held the Martin White Chair of Sociology for 25 years. He gained affection and respect from his students by his warm human qualities and wide knowledge. Professor Ginsberg's activities in the Jewish sphere included the joint editorship of the "Jewish Journal of Sociology". During the period of Nazi persecution, he was active in bringing help to victims who sought refuge from Germany in this country.

DR. ERNST FELDSBERG

Dr. Ernst Feldsberg, President of the Israelitische Kultusvemeinde Vienna and of the Federation of Jewish communities in Austria, died on August 21 in his 76th year. Together with his wife, who predeceased him, he was a prisoner in Theresienstadt during the war. He returned to Vienna after the liberation of the Camp and was elected President of the Community when the office fell vacant through the death of Dr. Emil Maurer. In his Last Will, which was published by the Kultusgemeinde in a special Memorial edition of its organ, "Die Gemeinde", Dr. Feldsberg stipulated that no eulogies should be held at his funeral and that he did not wish to be commemorated by a plaque or a portrait in the building of the community. The memorial issue *inter alia* carries messages of condolence from the Austrian Federal President, Franz Jonas, the Vice-Chancellor, Ing. Rudolf Haeuser, the Mayor of Vienna, Bruno Marek, and a number of Jewish organisations and personalities.

PROF. S. R. HUTTON

Professor S. R. Hutton, Emeritus Professor of Metallurgy in Cambridge, who recently died in his 94th year, was one of those English scientists and scholars, who selflessly rendered help to their colleagues abroad when they lost their positions as victims of political, religious or racial persecution. He was a leading member of the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning with which, for years, he held offices as honorary secretary and, later, honorary treasurer. After 1933 (Professor W. Feldberg writes in *The Times*), Hutton went specially to Germany and bargained with the Nazis to get people out, and succeeded. His house in Cambridge was always full of refugees. He discussed the problems of individual scholars with them as if they were his personal friends. His particular concern was for those who were too old when they came over to find positions. On the occasion of Professor Hutton's 85th birthday, former refugee scholars gave a reception in his honour and presented to him a letter bearing the signatures of 222 refugee scholars from all over the world.

MR. LEO KOENIG

The Yiddish essayist and critic, Mr. Leo Koenig, has died at Beersheba at the age of 82. At one time an art student at the Bezalel school in Jerusalem. Mr. Koenig, born in Odessa, continued his studies in Munich and Paris where he belonged to the circle of Russian-Jewish painters which included Marc Chagall and the late Chaim Soutine.

Mr. Koenig lived in London from 1913 for 40 years, settling in Haifa in 1953 under a scheme to make the city a centre of Jewish art and culture. For the past 15 years he lived at Beersheba. He made numerous contributions to leading Jewish newspapers and periodicals in Europe and America on various social, political and art aspects of Jewish life.



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ROUND AND ABOUT

VISIT TO ELEANOR RATHBONE HOUSE

At the invitation of Mrs. Merksamer, a tenant of the Eleanor Rathbone House, 60 members of the AJR Club paid a visit to the Flatlet Home for tea. They travelled to Highgate by coach.

The tables, which were arranged in the reception room, were laden with delicious pastries and home-made cakes which had been prepared by Miss Else Wolff who, together with Mrs. Merksamer and Mrs. Hambourg, acted as hostess. After tea the caretakers, Mr. and Mrs. Hendry, took the guests to several flats which were opened by their tenants for the occasion, and which displayed the versatile tastes of their owners. All participants of the outing enjoyed a thoroughly remarkable afternoon and were full of admiration for the design of the flatlets with all the amenities imaginable.

Mrs. M. Jacoby, chairman of the AJR Club, proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Merksamer for her kind hospitality.

ISRAELI COMPOSER

Mr. Ben-Zion Orgad, the Israeli composer whose works have been performed and broadcast by leading orchestras in London and abroad, was the only foreign composer invited to the Adirondacks-Champion Festival in New York. Now supervisor of music education in the Israeli Ministry of Education and Culture, Mr. Orgad was born in Germany in 1926 and went to Palestine in 1933. Many of his works have received international awards.

VIOLIN LESSONS FOR "FIDDLER"

The Israeli actor, Topol, received violin lessons from Isaac Stern in preparation for his part of Tevye in the film version of "Fiddler on the Roof."

VISIT BY HAIFA FOLKLORE GROUP

The sixth Billingham international festival featured the Students Folklore Group from Haifa, paying its third visit to this country. As part of the festival activities the group gave lessons in Israeli folk-dancing. Jonathan Gabay, their main choreographer and artistic director, lectured on Israel and her folk traditions. The group visited Austria on its way home, to take part in an Austrian-Israeli friendship week.

DESIGNER FOR STRATFORD PRODUCTION

The designs for Peter Brook's new production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Stratford-on-Avon have been executed by Sally Jacobs, who has had a long and fruitful collaboration with Peter Brook.

TWO NEW TV STARS

The current BBC-1 comedy revue series, "Don't Ask Us", stars two talented young Jewish actresses, Maureen Lipman and Adrienne Posta. They were together in the film, "Up the Junction". In the present series they have a popular weekly sketch where they act as children.

A JEWISH COMEDY

Abraham Polonsky, the American film director, is now producing "Romance of a Horse Thief" in Yugoslavia, with an international cast. He describes the film as "a bawdy Rabelaisian comedy about a marvellous bunch of Jews". It is based on a novella by the Yiddish writer, Joseph Opatashu, with screenplay by his son, David, who also has a part in the film. A talented Yiddish writer, David Opatashu, won the Lamed Award in 1948 with his collection of American Army stories written in Yiddish.

AWARD OF FEDERAL CROSS OF MERIT

Dr. Werner Rosenstock was awarded the German Federal Cross of Merit, First Class. At the handing over ceremony, held at the German Embassy on August 28, the Ambassador, Herr Karl-Guenther von Hase, stressed that he understood only too well the problems which a victim of Nazi persecution had to resolve before deciding to accept a German award. He also paid tribute to Dr. Rosenstock's work for his fellow refugees and to the part he has played in promoting understanding between the victims and post-war Germany. In his reply, Dr. Rosenstock stated that he regarded the award as a genuine gesture of moral restitution. The fact that people of his background had spent their formative years in Germany had left its lasting impact on their lives. At the same time, they had been equally influenced by the values of their new environment. Since the establishment of the German Embassy after the war, successive ambassadors and senior officials had endeavoured to build a bridge over the abyss. Some of them, like Herr von Hase, had experienced the brunt of Nazi persecution because of their close connections with active resistance fighters.

Those present at the ceremony included Mr. A. S. Dresel, Chairman, and Dr. E. A. Lomnitz, Deputy General Secretary of the AJR.

HOLOCAUST STUDIES CHAIR

America's first chair of "Holocaust studies" has been announced by Yeshiva University (Orthodox). Mrs. Lucy Dawidowicz, the university's associate professor of history, has been appointed to the chair endowed by Mr. Paul Lewis, of Dallas in Texas. Mrs. Dawidowicz is the author of "The Golden Tradition: Jewish Life and Thought in Western Europe", and other books.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by 18th of the month.

Birthdays

The AJR Club expresses its heartiest wishes to its member: Mrs. T. Mandelbaum, of 13 St. Cuthbert's Road, London, N.W.2, who will celebrate her 75th birthday on October 13.

Marriages

Gosliner: Schick.—On September 20, Norbert Gosliner to Gertrud Olga Schick, 71 Greenways Road, Cheshire, SK8 3NU.

Sinai: Jacobs.—The wedding of Mr. Henry M. Sinai, son of Mr. J. K. Sinai and the late Rose Sinai, of 124 Heywood Road, Prestwich, Manchester, to Miss Janice Jacobs, daughter of Mrs. B. Jacobs and the late Gershon Jacobs, of 62 Crescent Road, Manchester, 8, took place on August 30 at the Higher Crumpsall Synagogue, Manchester.

Deaths

Eiermann.—Mrs. Paula Eiermann (formerly Nuremberg) passed away in London on September 12. Deeply mourned by her friends and relatives in many lands.

Schaul.—Mr. Julius Schaul passed away in his 91st year on Sunday, September 13, at Otto Schiff House, 14, Netherall Gardens, London, N.W.3. Deeply mourned by his wife, children, grandchildren, family and friends. Shalom.

Wertheim.—Mr. Hans Wertheim, of 36 Cotswold Gardens, London, N.W.2 (formerly of Kassel), beloved husband of Helene, father and grandfather, passed away on September 1. in his 88th year.

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BUSINESS LADY of German origin, widow with no children, fair, tall, intelligent, independent means, with own elegant house, wishes to meet educated gentleman, about 55-62, view friendship and marriage. Please send detailed letter with photo which will be returned. Box 173.

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MISSING PERSONS

AJR Enquiries

Pick.—Mrs. Irene Pick, née Hayek, born 11.3.1886, wife of Rudolf Pick, came to this country on August 15, 1939.

Solna.—Former owners of jewellery business in Berlin Friedrichstr. between Unter den Linden and Leipzigerstrasse.

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ON FREEMEN AND STREET NAMES

Two New Berlin Books

Short biographies and in each case a photograph of 71 outstanding men and women are contained in Thorsten Müller's "Berlins Ehrenbürger" (Haude & Spensersche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Berlin 1968). The sub-title, "From Conrad Ribbeck to Nelly Sachs", indicates the span of time covered by the book, namely about a century and a half; from 1813 when the theologian Ribbeck played an important role as provost of Berlin to mid-1967 when the honorary freedom was bestowed on the poetess, harried out of Berlin, "who through the artistry of her work had found a universally applicable expression for the sufferings of persecuted peoples and their reconciliation with their fate and native country".

Apart from Nelly Sachs certain other Jews are included amongst the personalities described. Geheimer Justizrat Oskar Cassel, born as the son of a rabbi in Schwetz (West Prussia), who died in Berlin in 1923, was a progressive municipal politician in Berlin and Prussian state parliamentarian who on occasions also represented Jewish interests; he became an honorary freeman in 1914. The publisher Hugo Heimann came from Konitz in West Prussia; a friend of the Socialists August Bebel and Paul Singer, he gave up his publishing career (Verlagsbuchhandlung J. Guttentag) in 1900 and from then on devoted himself exclusively to public affairs, especially those of a cultural nature. He was a member of the Berlin municipal parliament and for a time its chairman, as well as member of the Weimar National Assembly and, until 1932, of the Reichstag. In 1926 he became the 56th honorary freeman of the former capital of the Reich. A quarter of a century later he died as an immigrant in New York. In 1927 he was followed, as honorary freeman No. 57, by the painter Max Liebermann (1847-1935) as representing the Berlin art world. Thorsten Müller fails to mention the fact that the Nazis deprived Heimann (and probably Lieberman as well) of the honorary freedom and that this was re-bestowed on Heimann in 1947.

The following honorary freemen of Berlin were also of Jewish origin: the doctor and public health expert Dr. Ferdinand Strass-

mann (Rawitsch, Poznan 1838 Berlin 1931) since 1915, Martin Kirschner (from Freiburg, Silesia), Lord Mayor of Berlin from 1899 to 1912, in May 1912; and in 1963, between General Lucius D. Clay and Federal Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, the renowned biochemist Otto Heinrich Warburg, Nobel Prize winner in 1931, who recently died at the age of 86 in Berlin-Dahlem.

Numbers 59-62 are missing from this little book because the rights of honorary freedom conferred on Hitler, Göring, Frick and Wilhelm Pieck were cancelled after the war by resolution of the city council.

Prominent Jews Remembered

Hugo Heimann, Martin Kirschner and Max Liebermann also appear in the useful little volume by Klaus Katzer, "Berlins Strassennamen Historische Persönlichkeiten auf Strassenschildern", published by the same press. Without claiming to be absolutely comprehensive it contains about 2,400 street names of this kind in both sectors of Berlin. In each case a pithy "etymology" of the designation is given, with dates.

At least 60 streets, roads and squares, according to our researches, are named after persons of Jewish origin and two-thirds of these are to be found in West Berlin. The "special" alphabetical index derived in this way begins at the letter "B", with Binswangersteig (East Berlin) named after the neurologist Otto Binswanger (1852-1929) and Blochplatz (Wedding, West Berlin) after the 18th century doctor and scientist Markus Elieser Bloch. Blumenthalstrasse in Pankow recalls the writer Oskar Blumenthal who established the Lessing Theatre in 1888. Shortly thereafter follows Börnestrasse in Weissensee (East). At the end of the "special" list can be found Bruno-Walter-Strasse in Steglitz, Warburgstrasse in Charlottenburg, named after Emil Warburg, president of the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt, Wertheim-Weg in Spandau—Georg Wertheim, founder of the department store bearing his name, died in 1939—and Wolfensteindamm in Steglitz (with the explanation "Hans Wolfenstein, citizen

of Steglitz and founder of the Jewish house of prayer").

To quote a few more examples, West Berlin also honours in its street names the mathematician Georg Cantor (Cantorsteig in Tempelhof), the socialist Eduard Bernstein (Spandau), the great Einstein (also in East Berlin), Kurt Eisner (Tempelhof), the heart and lung specialist Albert Fraenkel, director of the Urban Hospital (Kreuzberg). A street in Reinickendorf is named after Victor Gollancz, one in Neukölln after Fritz Haber, winner of the Nobel Prize for chemistry, a walk in Charlottenburg after the physicist Heinrich Hertz, a street after Kafka and a road after Kerr in Spandau. Kurt Löwenstein (1885-1939), the progressive municipal Schulrat, is honoured in Neukölln, in Wilmersdorf the actor Ludwig Barnay and also Walther Rathenau (whose family is also recalled by Rathenaustrasse in Köpenick, East Berlin). A square in Wilmersdorf is named after Rudolf Mosse, a street in Tempelhof after the Ullstein Press, whilst a street in Berlin-Mitte (East) is named after Heine. Rodenbergstrasse in the eastern suburb of Prenzlauer Berg is named after Julius Rodenberg (previously Julius Levy), founder of the "Deutsche Rundschau". Further honours conferred on contemporaries are found in West Berlin, including Leo-Baeck-Platz and Martin-Buber-Strasse, both in Zehlendorf, as well as Spieroweg (in Spandau). (During the persecution Dr. Heinrich Spiro, who died in 1947, was one of the leaders of the organisation of so-called non-Aryan Christians).

East Berlin

In East Berlin, in addition to the producer Leopold Jessner and parliamentarian Eduard Lasker, the three "M's", Mahler, Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and Meyerbeer, Otto Brahm (Deutsche Theatre, Lessing Theatre) and Max Reinhardt, one meets Lassalle, Karl Marx (also in Neukölln in the west), Rosa Luxemburg and Hanns Litten, the valiant lawyer who died in a concentration camp at the age of 35, as well as Toller and Tucholsky.

The Richard-Mühsam-Allee, which has been in existence since 1960 and is named after the well-known Jewish surgeon who died in 1938, has probably not been included by Klaus Katzer because this road lies within the precincts of the Rudolf Virchow Hospital and is not considered to be a public highway.

Both these reference books about well-known people to some extent provide a selective portrait of the more recent history of Berlin, in which the Jewish element cannot be discounted.

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ISRAELI NEWS

GERMAN SYMPATHIES

Mr. Ernst Benda, former West German Interior Minister, who is now president of the German-Israel Society in Bonn, wrote about the Middle East conflict in the bulletin of his party, the Christian Democratic Union, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the opening of diplomatic ties between Bonn and Jerusalem.

He criticised a statement by the West German Foreign Minister, Mr. Walter Scheel, indicating that Bonn was adopting the role of an entirely impartial observer of the Middle East conflict. Mr. Benda declared that this attitude failed to take into account the special character of the German-Israeli relationship. An essential part of West Germany's declared peace policy should be openly to support Israel's right to exist in peace, and continued economic co-operation with Israel should be among the practical consequences of this attitude.

A spokesman of the German Foreign Office categorically denied that Germany's current negotiations with Eastern European and Arab States would affect her attitude to Israel. A letter in the same vein by Mr. Rolf Pauls, German Ambassador to the U.S. (formerly to Israel), was published in the "Aufbau".

GIFT BY SASSOON FAMILY

Between £3 million and £3½ million has been donated to Israel by Mrs. Ivy Judah of London, a scion of the Sassoon family. This is one of the largest single donations ever received and is in addition to other generous gifts made to Israel over the years by Mrs. Judah.

The cornerstone has been laid for the Ivy Judah School of Engineering at the University of the Negev in Beersheba, and a project started in Kiryat Yovel, Jerusalem, for a 300-unit housing estate for new immigrants and young couples. Mrs. Judah is also to be associated with the creation of a chain of 50 kindergartens in development areas.

CHOLERA OUTBREAK

Through the World Health Organisation, Israel, soon after the WHO had declared her a cholera-stricken area, appealed to its Arab neighbours and Iran and Cyprus to co-operate in fighting the spread of cholera in the region. The Health Ministry appointed a special team to fight the disease and find its source. The Ministry has been publicly criticised, the press pointing out the state of sanitary and hygienic conditions in food shops, restaurants and public toilets. Tighter health controls were instituted which included the inspection of Jerusalem grocers and restaurants, the daily checking of water supplies and the inspection of hotels.

Israel, according to a WHO spokesman, has one of the best records for speedy notification of cholera cases.

DROP IN IMMIGRATION FROM BRITAIN

Last year was a record in British emigration to Israel, with almost 1,800 Britons settling in the country. As a result, Jewish Agency officials in London forecast over 2,000 emigrants for 1970. But figures for the first seven months and the present trend indicate a drop by about 5 per cent this year compared with 1969. For the first four months of this year the number of emigrants was 290 as against 407 in the same period of 1969, but there has been a marked improvement since.

The expected drop is attributed partly to Israel's precarious security position late last year and early in 1970, and partly to the improvement in Britain's economic conditions in the same period. Mr. Moshe Shamir, head of the Jewish Agency immigration department in Britain, feels, however, that the lack of improvement over last year's results is due to the fact that the Jewish Agency, Zionist organisations and Jewish individuals, are not doing enough to encourage emigration.

U.S. IMMIGRANTS

A group of 430—the largest single group of North Americans—has settled in Israel. They comprised altogether 108 families and 35 individuals, including 75 professional people, 23 skilled workers and eight businessmen. So far this year more than 1,500 potential settlers have departed from the United States and Canada, all aided by the 13 Aliya Centres in the two countries. Before the Six-Day War in 1967, the total immigration from the U.S. and Canada was about 1,500 a year.

TOURISM

Throughout the country hotels reported full bookings during July. During a cornerstone laying ceremony for a new Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem, the Tourism Minister, Mr. Moshe Kol, predicted that Jerusalem's tourist record would be broken this year.

INTER-FAITH CONFERENCE

The third annual inter-faith conference of young people has been held in Haifa. It was attended by 31 Protestant clergymen, teachers, students and high school pupils from West Germany and France, and twelve Israelis belonging to the Reform movement. The Prague Government refused permission to a delegation from Czechoslovakia which attended the previous two conferences. The theme of the conference sessions was "Faith in the Technological Era."

GERMAN AWARD

Professor Shmuel Hugo Bergmann of the Hebrew University (Jerusalem) was awarded the German Grand Cross of Merit in recognition of his work for the promotion of cultural relations between Israel and Germany.

Letters to the Editor

INCREASE OF COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

Sir,—I read with appreciation and even a feeling of some amazement your informative article on the considerable increase of all Entschädigungsrenten.

As before our thanks are due to those who have negotiated for us so successfully and it should be acknowledged that the democratic German government has kept in all these years not only to the letter, but also to the spirit of the law.

The news coming at the time of the High Holy-days will serve as a reminder that we surviving refugees are now the material beneficiaries of the Holocaust to a degree which nobody could have expected and that this carries an obligation to remember those who are less fortunate and the burning needs of Israel which has been a haven for so many who shared our fate.

I am sure to express the feelings of many of our friends by suggesting that all who can afford it might devote some part at least of their considerable "Nachzahlungen" to charitable institutions, which include the AJR, and to the Joint Palestine Appeal.

In a most precarious situation our Israeli brethren, friends and relatives pay daily not only in blood, tears and sweat, but also in new taxes which go beyond anything experienced anywhere in the world. Some obvious thoughts about our own fortunate position in this respect might perhaps be appropriate and helpful to come to a fruitful decision.

Yours, etc.,

HERBERT M. HIRSCH,
Board Member of the AJR and
Chairman of the Theodor Herzl Society,
London, N.W.6.

COMPENSATION AND AUSTRIAN REFUGEES

Sir,—Reading your article about the "Erhebliche Erhöhung der Entschädigungsrenten" for German refugees I am wondering if anybody thinks of the Austrian refugees who have suffered the same plight.

Cannot Dr. Katzenstein, to whose work you refer, or a similar influential person represent us and see that we are given the same compensating treatment as the Germans are receiving?

I hope you will print this letter as it may arouse someone to take action.

Yours, etc.,

(Dr.) ELIZABETH AYLING,
23 Regis Avenue,
Aldwick Bay,
Bognor Regis.

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