



Kindertransport

A special interest group of

The Association of Jewish Refugees
SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE



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Previous issues may also be viewed at:
www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport.htm

Dear Kinder and Friends



From the Editor's Desk

Once again we have a very full Newsletter. The contents cover a wide range of items. Congratulations are extended to Erich on his award. December saw two events regarding Kindertransport, at Liverpool Street Station the 'rededication' of the statue and the performance by Suitcase 1938. Media attention, especially TV and Radio (BBC and German media) were very busy with Kinder. I have established connections with the Holocaust Museum in Washington – see the article by Judith Cohen. Royal Mail also gets some criticism. Please let me have articles and also your comments. Don't be shy. I wish you and your families Chag Sameach and a pleasant 'buyerful' Pesach.

Bernd.

Dear fellow Kinder

Let me first and foremost convey my deep sympathy to Hermann for the loss of his beloved wife Eva. I wish him long life

We are fast approaching Spring, Pesach and the Festival of freedom. I sincerely hope you all managed to survive what was one of the wettest winters on record. Now is the time to look ahead for longer warmer days. As you all know we have had to change the location of our monthly lunch meetings which will now be held on Wednesdays at the Alyth Gardens Synagogue. At the last lunch

there were around 100 kinder, it dramatically improved the atmosphere. So I strongly urge that as many as possible come to each Lunch you never know who you will meet or hear.
All the very best to you all.



**Sir Erich Reich Wins Prestigious Fundraising Award
(Press release 23rd January 2014)**

Sir Erich Reich was recognised as the 'Most Committed Individual to the Sector' by the Institute of Fundraising at their annual Partners in Fundraising Awards on 21 January 2014. This prestigious award is for originating the concept of worldwide charity challenges through his company Classic Tours which has helped to raise over £85 million net for hundreds of UK charities since 1992.

Sir Erich Reich arrived in the UK as a four year old Jewish refugee to escape Nazi-occupied Europe. He was among 10,000 'Kindertransport' children allowed into the UK by the British Government before the outbreak of World War II. This charitable gesture saved his life. He has subsequently dedicated his adult life to giving back to society and inspiring others to raise funds for charity.

Through the invention of charity challenge events, Sir Erich created a totally new fundraising sector. This has proved to be a new source of charity income - funds that would not otherwise have been available for their invaluable work. Today his achievement is evident in the Fundraising Department of almost any charity since the majority now offer charity challenge events to their supporters.



Mark Astarita Chair of the Institute of Fundraising who presented the award described Sir Erich as a 'true pioneer in the sector' and praised his 'tireless commitment through his personal efforts and his company'.

Sir Erich says: 'I'm honoured and humbled to receive such a distinguished award. My aim has always been to help those most in need. At the same time bearing in mind my background as a child refugee, I am giving something back to the country that saved me from the Holocaust'.

In 2010 Sir Erich was awarded a Knighthood for charitable services. He is Chairman of Meir *Panim* UK - a charity that assists Holocaust survivors, children and poor families of all denominations living in Israel. He is also a Trustee of the Association of Jewish Refugees and Chairman of the Kindertransport Group.

At 78 years old, Sir Erich shows no signs of slowing down. His lifelong commitment to charity continues.

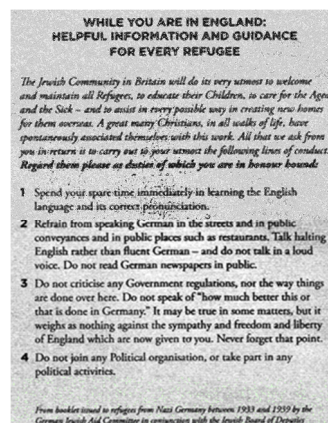
LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

Twice in two days for different aspects of Kindertransport: a 'rededication' of the statue and Suitcase1938's re-enactment of the KT as a whole entity. The dates were especially significant, coinciding with the departure and arrival of the first group of Kinder. Neither event was one to be missed, despite the chilly weather, which 'disappeared' under the warmth of the occasions.

WJR and AJR – don't we all love abbreviations? –World Jewish Relief with input from the Association of Jewish Refugees organised the first event. Linda Rosenblatt, Vice-Chair of WJR, welcomed the large audience, which was followed by the lighting of memorial candles by Kinder. Henry Grunwald QC, President of WJR, then gave a 'double' speech. He referred to the work of WJR and its predecessor with regard to the Kindertransport and its place in the events unfolding in 1938 and 1939. He reflected on the contributions made to the UK by Kinder. His 'second speech' was reading the words of Mr Eric Pickles, Minister for Local Communities and Government, who would have attended, but unfortunately was not well. He too referred to the events leading to the Kindertransport and the way Kinder integrated into British society.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis gave a moving address in which he pointed out that the Hebrew for 'giving' thanks has a twofold meaning: the recipient's thanks and the acknowledgement of the donor's action. Likewise we Kinder thank the UK Government but at the same time acknowledge the actions of the Government and that we have a reciprocal duty to do what is best for the UK. Benjamin Wolf, apart from singing *Eli Eli*, intoned the Memorial prayer (El Malei Rachamim) for the martyrs of the Shoah and for the Kinder no longer with us. This was followed by Kaddish and the conclusion of the commemoration.

Brunch followed at Bevis Marks Synagogue, during which a presentation was made to a grandson of Mr Noel-Baker, to acknowledge the his grandfather's speech in the House of Commons, which resulted in the Government agreeing to let in us Kinder.



This document is headed: WHILE YOU ARE IN ENGLAND: HELPFUL INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR EVERY REFUGEE. It sets out how refugees should settle in unobtrusively, as shown in the performance described below..

Suitcase 1938 initially re-enacted the events leading to the Kindertransport from the point of view of the children and their feelings. The greater part of the performance was the division of the audience into groups of 'Kinder' and taken on a tour of the station. We stopped at various points where members of the cast acted out specific areas of the Kindertransport, such as the 'boy' left behind, the railway porter collecting funds, 'tickets' to various destinations, the 'English Lady' sipping her tea and expressing her views about immigration, the 'couple' who wanted a boy and were allocated a girl and the reaction of the couple, and so on. The final section of the performance was the reaction of Kinder after the war, regarding receiving letters from parents, received earlier, and how they treasured them, as well as the tragic news about their families.

This and the afternoon's performance, were the end of a grand tour of various stations in the UK. Those who missed the performances, missed a most talented, wonderful and moving presentation of the Kindertransport in its setting.

BK



Rededication of the Kindertransport Plaque

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the debate in Parliament that led to the rescue of 10,000 children from Europe, members of the Kindertransport Association gathered at the House of Lords. People gathered at the visitor's entrance of the House of Lords and were subjected to intense security including being photographed for a visitor's pass.

The event started with the rededication of the plaque which had been unveiled by Madam Speaker in June, 1999. The Plaque was in deep gratitude to the people and Parliament of the United Kingdom for saving the lives of 10,000 children who had fled from Nazi persecution on the Kindertransport during 1938-1939. The Committee of the Kindertransport were joined by the current Speaker, John Bercow, the former Speaker Baroness Betty Boothroyd and Lord Alf Dubbs, himself a Kind from Czechoslovakia.

The Rt Hon. John Bercow, reflected on his own family's migration to England from Romania and the huge strides that had been made in the protection of human rights since the Holocaust. He welcomed Lord Alf Dubbs as a fellow worker on humanist issues.

Following the rededication, about 60 Kinder were joined by Baroness Boothroyd and Lord Dubbs for a celebratory tea in the Strangers Dining room due to kind invitation of the latter. Kinder from Europe enjoyed a very English tea of tiny sandwiches, scones with cream and jam and little cream cakes.

Sir Erich Reich welcomed the Kinder and dwelt on the role played by Philip Noel Baker, the Member of Parliament who had initiated the debate on 21st November, 1938 following the events after Kristallnacht and said “this special occasion gives us cause to celebrate but also to recognise the significance of the debate that led to our rescue for which we and our families will be eternally grateful.”



Eve Willman

Kindertransport on TV

Towards the end of last year, the BBC News channel screened the extended version of Kindertransport: Journey to Life that was first broadcast on Newsnight last June to mark the events the AJR organised to mark the 75th anniversary of the Kindertransport. The film was repeated on BBC World and helped bring the subject, the anniversary and its timeless themes to a global audience.

Through the film, the lives of four Kinder – Frank Meisler, Bernd Koschland, Eve Willman and Gertrude Flavelle – are explored, as they reflect on 75 years since their arrival in Britain. The Kinder narrate their own recollections as the viewer is taken through the terror of Kristallnacht to the feelings of hope and sanctuary of arriving in Britain. The impact of Kristallnacht in particular is examined as well as its seminal importance in acting as the catalyst for the creation of the Kindertransport.

While the short stories are uplifting and inspiring because lives were saved they do not shy away from the gut-wrenching emotion of a child being separated from their parents, or, later on, the despair at discovering a loved one's fate.

The Kindertransport was also only the beginning of the journey and the film vividly recalls the arrival of the four Kinder and the atmosphere that awaited them in hostels and private homes as well as the attitudes of their hosts.

The film also captures the reflections of Sir Nicholas Winton. Considering he is now 104, this in itself is an achievement but you sense he fears for future generations given, as he puts it, the mess mankind has made of the world in the last 100 years.

The film concludes on contrasting themes. As well as recording for perpetuity the testimonies of the Kinder, the film also acts as a warning lest the world not continue to remember. The scenes of Bernd addressing school pupils is redolent of the talks that hundreds of refugees and survivors give every year to students across the country but there are salutary messages too, from Frank, "This concept of humanity that binds us all together; if we don't have that, we are lost", from Gertrude, "It'll be remembered especially by the Jewish nation but anybody else I don't know" and from Eve, "A lot of people think we are milking it...but the thing is, it is not forgotten because it is happening to other societies".

Kindertransport: Journey to Life can be viewed on BBC iPlayer at http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b03mtjvx/Kindertransport_Journey_to_Life/

Michael Newman

Some comments received on the programme:

This is not an enquiry - just an expression of my extreme admiration for this programme, those who participated and to add my prayers to all those who suffered that their pain may be taken away. I had never heard of Kindertransport until this day - and would wish that the children of today were made more aware of these events - perhaps they could learn something to make them better people.

God bless you all.

Helen Powlesland, Crediton, Devon

What a fascinating little documentary, I hope we hear more as the 75th anniversary of the war approaches and the 'children' are still with us to tell of their experiences. I was rather saddened by the thoughts of one of the ladies in the film that this chapter of the war is being forgotten and that the community is 'milking' the matter. I fully understand how she feels and that later generations have little regard for the past. I hope you can do all you can to keep their memories alive, I'm sure a book of their experiences and how their lives have progressed would be fascinating for everyone. Kindest Regards.

Paul M Blackburn

Good morning! I just watched (for the 2nd time) the Kindertransport which aired on BBC TV here in the USA. I am just amazed that you were able to find these people and get their words on tape and video. For the rest of us to watch and think about. This is more than history.....it is living history. Thank you all so very much for putting this opus together.

Larry Cohen, UISA

- The programme has been seen world wide as reported back: Taiwan, Thailand, Florida, Ireland, Israel, Italy. From personal experience, quite a number of people have come up to me to report that they had seen it. One of my grandsons has not got over the shock?? –he was in Italy on

holiday with his wife, twiddled TV stations in their hotel room and suddenly heard my voice and saw me!!

BK

MEDIA ATTENTION

2013 saw much media attention given to the 75th anniversary of Kindertransport. There were several interviews in the Press. Reports on the Liverpool Street ceremony appeared in the Jewish Tribune and in the Jewish News; the latter had a full page of photographs.

Radio and TV, both here and in Germany were also active. BBC initially interviewed for Newsnight (reported elsewhere in the Newsletter) which was superbly produced by Maria Polachowska and Jon Hughes. This succinct but powerful programme took time to produce, as both Eve and I can testify. But it was most enjoyable to do it. For me, the afternoon's filming in Tylers Green was rounded off with a drink, sitting outside the local pub in the evening sunshine, overlooking the pond seen on the film.

The shots at Tylers Green (near High Wycombe, Bucks) had an interesting outcome for me. Via AJR I was given a contact number of a local historian in Tylers Green whom I contacted. Through seeing the film, he found out about the Jewish hostel in the village and speaking to local people he found a vague memory among them, first or second-hand, of the hostel. As a result, he is publishing a short series on the hostel in the Village News*, of which I received the first part in the magazine. Jane Merkin of Suitcase 38 and I were interviewed live on the Jeremy Vine Show by Venessa Feltz. By that time I got to know the BBC well.

German Radio and TV were also active. James Pastouna filmed me initially for a programme on German TV and then came again to record the ceremony at Liverpool Street Station, as reported elsewhere. Martina Buttler from German Radio interviewed Eve Willman, others and me for Radio. My interviews were entirely in German.

Another programme relating to Kindertransport was an interview with two of us. I believe the other person was neither a Kind nor Jewish. The interviews served as an introduction in a Sunday morning programme to a discussion on refugees.

* A local magazine for the villages of Penn and Tylers Green (Buckinghamshire)

BK

Memorials in Germany with a dose of Mishpochology & Geography!

As mentioned in the last edition of the Newsletter, I went to Germany in November last for 5 days to participate in the dedication of two memorials to victims of the Shoah in Herbron and Montabaur.

* The trip and dedications were organised by Mr Gerald Stern of Newcastle upon Tyne, whose family originated from both towns.

The flight to Cologne-Bonn airport was quicker than the car journey from Hendon to Heathrow! I stayed in Cologne because of Shabbat and a shul, which has a kosher restaurant attached. (The shul had been rebuilt in its former style, but set on the first floor; the ground floor held the communal hall and other facilities.)

A 9 am start on Friday for the 100 kilometre+ drive to Herbron for the first dedication. After some refreshment and chatting to people, especially the Mayor and Chairman of the local Council, we crossed a stream to the black monument in a small open space. Present were quite a large number

of local residents – the town has 9000 inhabitants. The ceremony opened with a musical introduction, followed by short speeches from the Mayor and the Chairman of the Council. Mr Stern then addressed us, recounting his family connections with the town. Finally, I spoke in German followed by an English translation, and recited the memorial prayer and Kaddish. The Mayor and his Chairman read out the names of all the victims inscribed on the memorial.

The gloomy weather somehow reflected the mood of the occasion, of sadness and, questions: what had happened to the Jews in Hebron before and during the Shoah? The remains of a mikveh, cemetery and the memorial recall the history of what was once a Jewish community.

After the service on Shabbat morning, a very civilised Kiddush took place, set out with chairs and tables laid with plates and glasses. The Rabbi gave D'var Torah (short talk), in German of course. Jewish family-geography (mishpochology) soon came to the fore with the Rabbi, who comes from Zurich where he was friendly with members of my family. In the evening, in the presence of a large Jewish and non-Jewish audience, a special event took place to mark the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

Sunday we drove to Montabaur. Fortunately the service took place inside the old Town Hall with a large crowd in attendance. The pattern of the service was similar to Herbron. Music was provided by pupils of the local Anne Frank School and an adult choir. Professor Roth from Bonn gave a talk on the history of the Jews of the Rhineland. Gerald Stern spoke, again referring to his family connections with the town. My address was followed by the memorial prayer and Kaddish. Outside, the memorial was unveiled, with the sculptor explaining its structure. The city provided lunch for guests, especially as there were many members of the Stern family, present as also at Herbron.

I have been asked how did I feel going to Germany to dedicate memorials? Briefly it all stirred my own emotions, especially as everything coincided with the anniversary of Kristallnacht. I was there, on the same night, but in my own home-town, Fürth. The names on the memorials were sacrificial victims of Nazism, as were also my own parents and family. I was pleased I went, as somehow it laid to rest a few ghosts for me.

*Herbron had a Jewish community from mid-17th century and Montabaur from 14th century. Montabaur was so named by a local Archbishop returning from a Crusade who looked at the ancient town castle on a hill and claimed it reminded him of Mount Tabor in Israel – hence the modern version Montabaur.

Gerald Stern's father (Freddy) came from Herbron. He and I came on the same transport in March 1939 and were together in a hostel in Margate.

BK

WHAT MEANS FREEDOM?

If Moses were to come back for Pesach, he would not recognise the Festival he instructed Israel to keep. Shopping till one drops! pesachdike rolls? He would cry: "Oi gewalt (in Yiddish of course, what else?!) is dos meine religion oder a neue?"

On a serious note, his instructions in Exodus 12 are 'simple' for the observance of Pesach in Egypt and for succeeding times. The Pesach lamb and its regulations – a symbol of defiance to the Egyptians- and the keeping of the Festival for seven days (8 outside Israel) with matzah and no chametz for that period. It was to be the Festival of Freedom: from the slavery of Egypt, to impress the message and meaning of freedom for all times. But how to use that freedom?

No sooner had Israel left Egypt, with Pharaoh hot on their heels, they complained to Moses that he brought them out to kill them in the desert, preferring have remained in Egypt. Even the jubilation

at the destruction of the Egyptian forces did not last long. Soon they complained again about lack of water and food. The murmuring was calmed; Israel obtained water at Marah and then again by Moses striking the rock. Food was provided through quails and manna. The attack by the Amalekites and their subsequent defeat was a Divine warning-shot to help Israel onto the right road, being free had initial problems.

To guide further, a system of Judges was set up, the essential bases of a moral society was give, the ten commandments and laws governing everyday life, e.g. treatment of slaves, neighbour's property and so on.

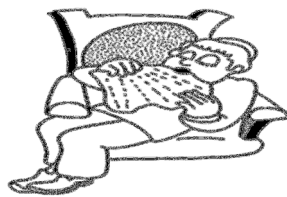
This sequence of events in the early formation of Israel as a people is a template for the use and misuse, the understanding and misunderstanding of freedom through the ages. Freedom must have objectives. In the case of Israel, it was full attachment to God their Deliverer (hence after the Exodus a place of worship with the erection of the Tabernacle) and the ultimate entry into the land promised to the Patriarchs.

When freed from thralldom or whatever hampers liberty, what do we understand by freedom? How does one use that freedom? How does one deal with the issues once liberty is obtained? What are its main objectives? To give an analogy: at 17 a youth can drive a car- handled properly and with understanding it is beneficial; at the same time it can be a lethal, death-dealing machine if not handled correctly. In our own time, the Arab Spring gave freedom from dictatorship or autocratic rule. How has that freedom been used? Are the people safer and freer than before? Is the murderous bullet from the warring factions any better than the one from the autocratic ruler's army?

Living in freedom, as we do in this country, we must learn to use it correctly to our benefit and the benefit of the rest of the population.

The basic rules of Pesach are clear. We must remove the Chametz, that element which destroys the message of Pesach, that element by transference of thought, which can disrupt and destroy our freedom to live in accord with our teachings and beliefs.

Bernd Koschland



Chag

sameach

'Walter's World'

Former Kind Walter Bingham travels all over Israel and the international Jewish world to bring you in-depth reports in his exciting magazine-style programme. Topics range from cultural and entertainment events and social problems to major political interviews and statements recorded live. The programme can also be heard by going to www.israelnationalradio.com and looking for 'Walter's World' or by googling 'Walter Bingham Israel'. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



Group portrait of Jewish refugee girls, who had come to England on a Kindertransport, at the Bnai Brith hostel in Hackney (London). United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Ruth Wasserman Segal.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum depends on its collection of artefacts, documents, photographs, films, and oral testimonies to stand as evidence of humanity's greatest crime and to stand as evidence of what happened for ages to come. It is crucial that the Museum recue and preserve this material evidence while there is still time. It is the material that belonged to the victims and survivors that relate their stories, experiences, and histories that form the basis of the collection.

In a race against time to rescue the evidence of the Holocaust before the eyewitness generations are no longer with us, the Museum seeks original artefacts from survivors and their heirs who were displaced, persecuted, or discriminated against due to the racial, religious, ethnic, social, and political policies of the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945, as well as from other eyewitnesses to these events. Material is fully catalogued and available on-line together with a short biography of the donor so that the significance of the artefacts is fully documented and also to serve as a living memorial to family members who perished and honour those who survived. Our archive is regularly accessed not only by scholars, students, museum curators, and documentary film makers from around the world, but also by survivors and their families seeking to learn more about their own experiences. Frequently a survivor finds a photograph of themselves as part of a collection someone else donated, and one collection often complements and sheds light on another.

The Museum also seeks to expand its Registry of Holocaust Survivors to ensure that the names of survivors are preserved in the historical record and are available to help survivors and their families trace missing relatives and friends. Only together can we safeguard the memory of the Holocaust for all time.

This summer, museum curator, Suzy Snyder, will be visiting England and would be delighted to meet with members of the Kindertransport Association and other survivors and their families who have material of interest to the Museum. For more information please contact a Curator at the Museum at curator@ushmm.org or Suzy Snyder at ssnyder@ushmm.org

Judith Cohen, Curator of Photographs



Felt doll carried by 10 year old Ina Felczer on the Kindertransport.
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, gift of Ina Felczer



Dear Bernd

I would like to congratulate you on the forbearance you displayed in replying to the holier-than-thou and seemingly ill-informed, not to say insulting, letter from Mr Mike Auerbach.

It is a pity that he did not reveal what heroic military service he was involved in during or after WW2. To suggest that those of us who came over in the Kindertransports have been ungrateful to the and the country that gave us succour, and that as a group we have failed to repay our adopted country one way or another, is to my mind outrageous and demands an apology.

I volunteered for the Army (infantry) near the end of 1943 at the age of 18 and was demobilised with the rank of Captain and a letter of thanks from the then King in the autumn of 1947. (I had previously spent a year in the Home Guard and had kept a rifle in my bedroom.) I know of numerous others who joined the forces at that time when it first became possible for enemy aliens to join the regular armed forces as opposed to the Pioneer Corps, and I know personally of two men who lost their lives in the liberation of France. Many had joined the Pioneer Corps before that and served honourably in a variety of capacities. Others who did not join the Forces were often in protected jobs in which they served their country to the best of their ability. Perhaps Mr Auerbach can explain why he thinks that volunteering for the Armed forces after the war ended would have been such a heroic and vital thing to have done –people got on with their lives after the war, licking their wounds, and served in industry or the professions or the arts, thus making important contributions to the fabric of British society, of which they became an integral part.

For Mr Auerbach to claim that Kindertransportees showed “an abhorrence of the military that protected this country from invasion, an abhorrence of even buying a poppy on Remembrance Day” is sheer fantasy and a pretty disagreeable one at that. How many Remembrance Parades has he

himself attended? On what authority does he dare to make such outrageous allegations? A member of our extreme rightwing party couldn't have improved on them.

Perhaps Mr Auerbach such an illustrious name: I am thinking of another Kindertransportee with the name Frank Auerbach who has illuminated the British art scene so brilliantly) will enlighten us as to the contributions He has made to British life; that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie Baruch Brent (Emeritus Professor)

[This letter is a reply to Mr Auerbach (September 2013 issue) in which he queried Kinder contribution to the UK in war and after. *Editor*]

How Royal Mail missed the Kindertransport train

(The item below is based on an article by Alan Benjamin in the *Philatelic Exporter*)

“On December 1 1938 a train pulled into London’s Liverpool Street Station carrying the very first batch of Kindertransport children. Exactly 75 years later, he had the privilege of attending a commemorative event at this same station...in the aptly named Hope Square. The wonderfully humane action by the British Government and a 29-year old stockbroker named (later Sir) Nicholas Winton saved the lives of... children from the brutal tyranny of Nazi Germany; their only crime was that they were Jewish.”

Allan Benjamin, a postal consultant, states clearly that stamps “are still one of the best ways a country can publicise an event or its political view point. “Unfortunately Royal Mail makes a point of not finding a point in anything of a Jewish nature –“I say this from experience.”

He quotes several examples of when he had approached Royal Mail to commemorate Jewish events: for example, the 350th anniversary of Jews in Britain (2006) or the 150th anniversary of the first non-Christian MP in Parliament (2007). His suggestions were not taken up. “Another country would have issued postage stamps to commemorate how Britain did such an honourable thing.” He further asks whether Royal Mail thought this would offend others.

He cites examples of countries that had recently honoured Jews and Jewish subjects: Hungary and France issued stamps showing historic synagogues, Egypt and Belarus featured Jewish subjects, Australia and Canada did joint issues with Israel.

“If a Muslim country can honour a Jewish subject why cannot Britain do the same by honouring those, both Christians and Jews, who organised the Kindertransport?”

In a footnote Alan Benjamin points out the contribution of the Christadelphians, led by people such as Alan Overton, became involved in the rescue and settling down of Kinder in the UK.

- Before retirement, Alan W Benjamin was a consultant to postal administrations around the world on stamp design and subject matter on postage stamps.

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Stanley Kacher



Reviews



Frances Williams, *The Forgotten Refugees*, Bloomsbury Academic 2014, ISBN 978-1-7809-3803-5

Dr Frances Williams, an independent scholar, has produced an important contribution to the story of the Kindertransport. Apart from a general introduction on the KT (Kindertransport) it focuses on Scotland and its part in the story. Writings on the KT have usually been general in nature, with scant reference to the Scottish experience – at least in the books I have read and used. The author has made extensive use of the KT survey, as seen through the graphs on various aspects, all of which adds significantly to the value of the book. Some examples of graphs are: country of origin (Introduction p.xxxvii), age when first employed (p.47), current religious affiliation (p.114). The preface explains the approach Williams used in producing this book and is a valuable lesson in the use of historiographic materials. The inclusion of photographs preserves views of Scottish KT life, especially of Whittingehame Farm School. There are extensive notes to each chapter and a very large and well set-out bibliography.

The school and its activities are described throughout the book and thus ensures the place of the school in the story of the KT; in other works it is often just a footnote. Various organisations, religious, non-religious, Zionist or whatever other outlook played a vital role especially in training youngsters in agricultural work, and if they were imbued with Zionist ideals, would lead them to go on eventual *aliyah*.

A variety of topics are covered throughout the work which applied and still apply to Kinder generally, but here are specifically related to Kinder (though the author prefers Kindertransportees) in Scotland.

The question of acculturation and integration is discussed and touches upon the issues relating to conversion and to abandoning Judaism completely. The silence of Kinder and survivors generally for many years is something that affected Kinder a vast majority. How Kinder were treated by their foster families likewise reflects life generally of the young refugees, in homes alien to their experience, be it in a non-Jewish home or finding oneself in a very orthodox home when the youngster came from a non-observant family, or coming from a secure economic background and living in with a very poor family, who despite poverty were very welcoming. An important issue dealt with is the impact of residential upbringing, of growing up in an institutional environment, as opposed to the family life left behind.

As an academic study, it must surely become an essential work in the historiography of the Kindertransport. Though the book is academic, it does reflect the human side of Kinder and their experiences. This is especially true through the 24 short biographies of Kinder, one of whom joined the same hostel in which the reviewer lived. These biographies also reflect the kaleidoscope of learning how to live in and adapt to a new homeland.

A couple of minor quibbles: The reunion mentioned was the first one after 50 years and not a 50th reunion. There are a number of typos, especially in some Hebrew words (correctly spelled in the useful glossary of Hebrew terms). I find *Kindertransportee* cold and academic. I would have preferred the word *Kind/Kinder* which is used by *Kindertransportees*, as it reflects a common emotional bond.

I congratulate Frances Williams for this highly readable and well researched book and recommend it to anyone interested in the Kindertransport in Scotland or elsewhere.

PRISM

[Items from Prism are reprinted with permission from the spring 2013 issue of PRISM: An Interdisciplinary Journal for Holocaust Educators published by the Azrieli Graduate School of Yeshiva University, NY, NY.]

In the April 2013 Newsletter there was a short mention of PRISM. I have received a copy since of the work, published by Yeshiva University, Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration of New York.

Prism is an interdisciplinary Journal devoted to Holocaust studies. The edition under review, published in 2013, is devoted to the Kindertransport. The contents are very varied: historical research, personal memories, poems, film review, pedagogical items and art. The contents thus make a useful contribution to Kindertransport studies and general writings about it. The authors, mainly from the USA, come from a variety of disciplines.

Several articles are of specific interest to the UK. Rachel Licht, researcher and educator, writes a significant piece about Rabbi Dr Schonfeld. It has some lovely reminiscences. I quote one by Emmanuel Fischer of Vienna and Jerusalem who was brought out by Dr Schonfeld: "I arrived in London on Friday and had my first English class on Sunday...beginning with 'In the beginning God created the heaven and earth.'" Suitcase by Ros Merkin has two articles, one about the play and the second one is the script of it as it was in 2013. (The play- current version - is also reviewed in this Newsletter) Sir Nicholas Winton is honoured with a poem *Winton Train*.



Rabbi Schonfeld with some of the Schonfeld-Kinder

Auld lang syne is about the Kindertransport in Scotland and adds a little to the book *The Forgotten Kindertransportees* (also reviewed), particularly the four short biographies of Kinder, which parallel those of the book.

All in all, this edition of *Prism* is a most fascinating, valuable and inspiring Journal and most useful material for those speaking about the Kindertransport.

Books received:

Pamela Shatzkes, *Holocaust and Rescue – Impotent or indifferent? Anglo-Jewry 1938-1945*

Dorothea Sher-Vansson, *The Balancing Game*

BK

Children's War Museum. Films, Photograph's. Interview Recordings.

We would like to develop our presentation of the Kindertransport history and Jewish child refugees' history. Could I please ask you to get in touch if you have any visual material that we could include in a school's presentation or on our web-page. Hearing the voices of child survivors or seeing images from their war are most particularly important for students. I'm hopeful that more visual records are being produced now with digital film.

The museum would like to present children's art from Terezin in April and May. We are completing the loan agreement just now with Terezin Museum and I'm looking for venues for this important exhibition. Please do let me know if you can think of anyone who be interested in presenting the children's art and history.

Thank you again to everyone who has contacted the museum with letters, poems, memoirs and phone calls.

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A PRAYER ANSWERED

The Radomsker Rebbe was visited by a Hasid who complained that he had suffered heavy losses in his business and could not meet his losses; nor could he obtain more credit. The Rebbe replied that he would pray to the Lord on his behalf, paraphrasing words of the Haggadah. "The one who has no one from whom to borrow, do Thou, O Lord, open up a credit account." A few days later the Hassid received a favourable business opportunity and prospered.

KINDERTRANSPORT LUNCH

We were delighted to welcome the Newsreader and former winner of Strictly Come Dancing, Natasha Kaplinsky, as the guest speaker at the Kinder lunch at the New North London Synagogue on Monday 3 March.

Natasha, who has recently been appointed to the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission, spoke movingly about her appearance on the genealogy programme, Who Do You Think You Are?, for which she was taken to South Africa and Belarus to trace her family's history. Natasha was joined by representatives from the Prime Minister's office who collected the opinions of Kinder on what should form the focus of the Holocaust Commission's work.

As well as finding time to chat to individual Kinder, Natasha also spoke to some Year 6 pupils from the Akiva School who had the chance to meet Kinder and hear their experiences.



Andrea Goodmaker presenting Natasha with an Orchid

Views expressed in the Kindertransport Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Kindertransport Special Interest Group or of the Association of Jewish Refugees and should not be regarded as such.

Kindertransport Reunion DVD

We are delighted to announce that a special commemorative DVD with footage of the Kindertransport Reunion at JFS and the reception with His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales at St James's Palace is now available for purchase.

(£5 incl. packing and postage, unless overseas)

Filmed and produced by Alan Reich, the DVD will serve as a poignant memorial to the two historic gatherings of Kinder and their families that took place in June 2013 as part of the events the AJR organised to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Kindertransport.

To receive your copy, please call Andrea Goodmaker
on 020 8385 3070 or email kt@ajr.org.uk