

JOURNAL

'45

OF THE AID SOCIETY

No. 8

MARCH 1981

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JOURNAL OF THE '45 AID SOCIETY

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All submissions for publication in the next issue (including letters to the Editor and Member's news items) should be sent to:

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They should be typed in double-spacing and reach the Editor not later than the end of August 1981.

EDITORIAL

Once again almost a whole year has passed since the appearance of our last issue. Once again the major reason for this was the lack of contributions. However, we are delighted to be able to report that during the last few weeks the flow of contributions suddenly increased and thus the current issue is a rather bumper one compared with previous ones. Furthermore, for the first time since our issue of November 1978 we have a reaction to a preceding article, this time in the shape of Moniek Goldberg's comments. Moniek Goldberg's view of the "lambs to the slaughter" thesis was also expressed in these pages in the November 1978 issue, in the course of a review of "Holocaust". It is a view of which "our sons and daughters" should not remain ignorant. We, in turn, should be aware of such views as those expressed by Ardyn Halter, who adds a welcome touch of controversy to our pages. Will he, one wonders, draw the fire of any Member, as Shlomo Raz drew Moniek Goldberg's?

As in other recent issues, the "Here and Now" Section seems to be the most attractive to our contributors. Never before have we had as moving and as hopeful a contribution as Peter Brandstein's. Some of his feelings will be shared by many of us, particularly his feeling that we need to make up for the tears we did not shed in the camps. Part of what he says also endorses the view of the Society expressed in our last Editorial. We are very glad to have the piece by Moriz Sobov who, although he does not identify himself as such, is the Chairman of the U.S.A. Section of our Society. Our "Headquarters" being in London, and this being the Journal of our Society, it is natural that Chairmen or Presidents of (overseas) Sections of our Society should use it as a means of informing the entire Society of what their particular Section may be doing. We look forward to having similar contributions from our Section in, for example, Israel.

Many of our Members are likely to be present at the forthcoming world gathering of Holocaust Survivors in Israel next June (to which we referred in our last Editorial and which figures prominently in Moriz Sobov's piece). We look forward to publishing reports on, and impressions of, that event.

As the anniversary of our last issue began to draw ominously nearer and nearer rumours began to reach us that some Members were actually impatient for the next issue! This seemed praise indeed and helps to explain why the appearance of this issue was not delayed even longer. If the prospect of praise acts as an incentive, economists refer to it as a 'moral incentive' - but as an incentive nevertheless.

Those who read these Editorials may have noticed that their author does not forget what was said in earlier ones. Last time we urged Members to respond to our questionnaire survey and we boldly and, as it turns out, brashly, announced that the results of the survey ". . . will be published". Well, we are informed that our appeal has had no effect whatsoever,

and that the response rate stands where it stood a year ago, i.e. at under 50%, which is not good enough to warrant publication of the results. (A response rate of at least 80% is required.) In our Editorial of May 1979 we pointed out that these results would be of interest to our Members and would also be of scientific interest. Moreover, some Members have invested a good deal of work in the design and organisation of this survey. It would be a pity if the survey were to be a failure. You can still help to make it a success by filling in and returning your questionnaire, if you have not done so already. As far as response goes, we are more than half-way to being successful. Could we ask the 50% of our Members who have so far ignored our appeals not to ignore this last one.

We wish to extend an additional invitation; Roman Halter has suggested that we should print in this Journal photographs which illustrate various aspects of pre-war Jewish life in the areas in which we were born. Members who have such photographs should send them to me - I guarantee their safe return. We cannot do too much to try to preserve the historical record of Jewish life in Eastern and Central Europe, all the more so as this record is certainly not being preserved in those areas. Aron Zylberszac's report that in most parts of Poland no traces whatever remain of pre-war Jewish life there will be confirmed with regret and indeed anger by other Members who visited the country during the last 10 - 15 years. We can do nothing to preserve visible records there - but, in the spirit of the project reported by Artek Poznanski, we should do our utmost to contribute to its preservation in whatever way we can. The re-printing of photographs in this Journal is one such way.