

The SCRIBE

JOURNAL OF BABYLONIAN JEWRY

OCTOBER 1987 No. 24

A HAPPY NEW YEAR 5748 TO ALL OUR READERS AND FRIENDS



Hacham Moshi Hayim Shlomo Dawid Shamash, Chief Rabbi of Baghdad 1918-1923, with his advisers. To his right: Yusuf Elias, Sion Aboody, Abraham Haim Shabandar. To his left: Advocate Shaul Dawood (Laswad), Menashe Gourji, Eliahou Iny. (Foto supplied by Mrs. Flora Moshi)

Ensuring Jewish Survival

THE DEATH OF HESS has given the media the opportunity to publicise his statement that Hitler was the greatest son that Germany ever produced. If the bloodthirsty beast Hitler is Germany's paragon then the German people cannot claim to be civilised.

Holocaust commentators often reproach its Jewish victims for meekly walking into the gas chambers, without defending themselves or at least putting up some resistance. The fact is that they were in a hopeless situation and accepted death as a lesser evil than slow torture or being skinned alive, barbarities which the nazi beasts were capable of doing and did, on many occasions, for the least pretext.

But what about us? We are around. Why don't we avenge the blood of our brethren? We are not in a hopeless situation. We can inflict heavy retribution on our enemies. If people can reproach those who perished in the Holocaust for not putting up a fight, history will not forgive us - we who have survived. We have let it pass quietly to the extent that neo-nazis and

anti-semites are tempted to claim that the Holocaust never in fact happened. At times as many as 60,000 Jews were gassed every day. If our enemies can suffer this kind of casualties then perhaps they can be reminded that the Holocaust did take place.

But who are our enemies? All those who say "Hitler was right;" all those who preach genocide; all those who say Israel has no right to exist and want to throw the Jews into the sea; all those who await the opportunity to engulf the world in another armageddon and perpetrate their crimes under cover of war. All these are not just our enemies. They are the enemies of humanity - nay, the enemies of God. We have to flush them out of their hiding places, and destroy them before they destroy us.

'Do not I hate them,
O Lord, who hate thee?
And am not I grieved
With those that rise up against thee?
I hate them with perfect hatred;
I count them mine enemies.' ●

The Gulf War

ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS we have made reference to the intensification of the Gulf War between Iran and Iraq and some people who are more pro-Arab and anti-Israel have tended to play down its significance, but now with the despatch of American, British, French and Russian war ships and mine sweepers to the Gulf and the attack made on an American warship "The Stark" in which 37 American sailors were killed, a most dangerous situation has arisen. This could possibly lead to the outbreak of major hostilities involving the Super Powers. Although the UN adopted Resolution 598 calling Iran and Iraq to cease fighting and start negotiating their differences it is becoming clear that while the US supports Iraq, the Soviet Union increasingly leans towards Iran. Iran has a wide border with the Soviet Union and it is the biggest regional power in the Middle East. One cannot foretell how rapidly the situation can deteriorate but it needs the attention of all right thinking people to seek a remedy. It should be recalled that there are now over a million casualties since the war began 7 years ago ●

P.S.G.

Spot an Ancestor

A FURTHER SELECTION from the Register of military taxpayers of the Baghdad Community of 1892.

Rahamin Heskcl Khermouch
 Menashe Yacub Khermouch
 Abraham Benjamin Khermouch & Brother
 Aharon Khermouch
 Eliahu Reuben Shlomo Karradi
 Baroukh Heskcl Karkukli
 Heskcl Hayim Ezzuri Karkukli
 Heskcl Zakkai Karkukli
 Aharon Eliahu Heskcl Karkukli
 Heskcl Eliahu Karkukli
 Rahamim Yacub Karkukli
 Eliahu Yisrael Karkukli
 Abdulla Shalom Karkukli
 Yacub Asher Karkukli Dcflal
 Dawid Yamen Karkukli
 Heskcl Ezra Rahamim Karkukli
 Yahia Shimeon Karkukli
 Saleh Eliahu Karkukli
 Daniel Heskcl Karkukli
 Khedouri Sasson Kheyyat
 Moshe Hai Yishaq Cohen
 Yishaq Abdulla Cohen
 Saleh Heskcl Cohen
 Aharon Shalom Heskcl Cohen
 Moshe Shalom Heskcl Cohen
 Eliahu Heskcl Cohen
 Nessim Abraham Cohen
 Elia Ezra Cohen
 Heskcl Ezra Abraham Cohen
 Saleh Abdulla Cohen
 Abdulla Yehuda Cohen
 Heskcl Hakham Ezra Cohen
 Reuben Hakham Ezra Cohen
 Menashe Eliahu Shalom Cohen
 Meir Hakham Nessim Cohen
 Saleh Hakham Nessim Cohen
 Heskcl Nessim Cohen
 Aharon Nessim Cohen
 Sasson Abraham Cohen
 Yosef Eliahu Heskcl Cohen
 Aslan Nessim Cohen
 Dawid Nessim Cohen
 Yishaq Dawid Khedhourl
 Heskcl Dawid Khedhourl
 Menashe Yishaq Khedhourl
 Heskcl Saleh Khedhourl
 Khedhourl Dawid Khedhourl
 Elia Ezra Khedhourl
 Yishaq Moshe Khebbaz
 Yishaq Reuben Asher Khebbaz
 Reuben Yishaq Asher Khebbaz
 Hougul Mordechai Hebbaba Khebbaz
 Yosef Heskcl Baroukh Khlef
 Yishaq Heskcl Baroukh Khlef
 Menashe Heskcl Baroukh Khlef
 Saleh Yishaq Koussa
 Elia Yishaq Koussa
 Yacub Yishaq Koussa
 Shaul Yishaq Koussa
 Ezra Sasson Khezzam
 Aharon Sasson Khazzam
 Heskcl Eliahu Khezzam
 Yacub Khezzam
 Yamen Meir Khezzam
 Aboudi Abdulla Yacub Khezzam
 Shaul Abdulla Yacub Khezzam
 Aboudi Elia Khezzam
 Yosef Heskcl Eliahu Khezzam
 Yishaq Elia Khezzam
 Aharon Saleh Khezzam
 Maatug Pinhas Kababchi
 Heskcl Yosef Kababchi

Menashe Saleh Kababchi
 Aboudi Menahem Kateb
 Yosef Menahem Kateb
 Selman Dawid Elkateb
 Yacub Moshe Khebbaza
 Moshe Yishaq Asher Khebbaza
 Khedhourl Yishaq Asher Khebbaza
 Abed Heskcl Asfa Khebbaza
 Nahom Saleh Nahom Khebbaza
 Yosef Abdulla Khebbaza
 Dawid Eliahu Khebbaza
 Shaul Moshe Khebbaza
 Ezra Abdulla Khebbaza
 Heskcl Nessim Khebbaza
 Hougul Mordechai Khebbaza
 Yacub Heskcl Khebbaza
 Maatug Heskcl Khebbaza
 Yosef Yosef Khtaina
 Abed Yishaq Khtaina
 Rfael Dawid Khtaina
 Dawid Rfael Khtaina
 Ezra Yosef Khtaina
 Heskcl Ezra Mordechai Khtaina
 Shaul Yehuda Leytim
 Saleh Shmuel Laqraa
 Moshe Nessim Laaraj
 Saleh Elia Larraj
 Heskcl Yacub Lela
 Shlomo Aharon Meslawi
 Hayim Saleh Meslawi
 Menashe Aboudi Meslawi
 Yacub Yosef Meslawi
 Menashe Meir Shabethai Meslawi
 Heskcl Ezra Meslawi
 Shlomo Abraham Meslawi Ettar
 Yacub Saleh Meslawi
 Shaul Nahom Meslawi
 Eliahu Ezra Meslawi
 Heskcl Benjamin Shlomo Meslawi
 Saleh Ezra Meslawi
 Ezra Heskcl Nahom Meslawi
 Sasson Hakham Yishaq H. Mordechai
 Yosef Ezra Shalom H. Mordechai
 Saleh Heskcl Aharon Moshe
 Hougul Heskcl Aharon Moshe
 Aharon Heskcl Aharon Moshe
 Meir Aharon Moshe
 Hougul Meir Aharon Moshe
 Ezra Hougul Aharon Moshe
 Sion Hougul Aharon Moshe
 Aharon Ezra Aharon Moshe
 Heskcl Baroukh Hayim Moshe
 Yacub Heskcl Mkammal
 Menashe Yacub Mkammal
 Aboudi Ezra Mkammal
 Moshe Yacub Mkammal
 Ezra Sasson Michael
 Heskcl Reuben Menashe
 Mordechai Aharon Elia Menashe
 Heskcl Yahya Menashe
 Reuben Menashe Saleh Menashe
 Ezra Yacub Menashe
 Menashe Heskcl Hayim Menashe
 Yishaq Saleh Mansur
 Reuben Abed Mansur
 Heskcl Saleh Mansur
 Yacub Saleh Mansur
 Menashe Yacub Abdulla Mansur
 Reuben Yacub Abdulla Mansur
 Shaul Abed Mansur
 Nasrallah Dawid Mansur

LETTERS

(All letters received are considered for publication, unless requested otherwise. Writers who do not like our comments always have the right of reply in our columns.)

I WAS PLEASED to receive the July issue of The Scribe. Excuse me saying it was not so interesting as the previous ones, specially about the "Pasha" who used filthy language.

I wish to revise the story of the two Chinese baby boys, whose young Chinese mother sold them to a Baghdadian Jew connected with the firm of the Sassoon family.

I recollect now that most of the office staff working in Shanghai were transferrerd to the Bombay office, including Salim El Cheena in about the year 1900. It was during his stay in Bombay that he got married to a Baghdadian Jewess and adopted an Ashkenazi boy. It was through the son that I became friendly with the family.

You will be interested to know that I am now 90 years old and can still remember what I did during my lifetime

Tel Aviv

Aubrey Hilaly

(We extend warm congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Hilaly on attaining the age of 90 - Scribe.)



THANKS FOR THE copies of the July issue of your celebrated periodical. The Board of Directors of the "American Iraqi Jewish Community of Los Angeles" were very glad to receive them and to read the various interesting articles and news which it contains. I was very impressed by Mr. Bekhor's Article on "Ja'far Pasha al-'Askari." This portrait of the character and life of al-'Askari is one of the most impressive and accurate and convincing biographies that I ever read

Los Angeles

(Prof) Shmuel Moreh



I HAPPENED to see the No. 21, January 1987 issue of The Scribe, Journal of Babylonian Jewry, in Cochin recently. The contents interested me much and I wish to read it regularly. Please include my name in your mailing list and send me the back issues, too. I am carrying out detailed studies on the history of the Jews in the Orient. Hence my interest in the journal

Kerala, India

Prem Doss S. Yehudi
 Advocate

BEING AN IRAQI Jew with an Ashkenazi mother, having never been to Iraq; grew up in Sweden where there are no Iraqis; speaking no Arabic, Swedish being my first language – only my mother's delicious Iraqi cooking (which she learned to please my father); only my father's phone calls in Arabic to his family in London for the high holydays made me aware from time to time about my Babylonian heritage. Thus I feel Iraqi.

I left Sweden 11 years ago and by some design but mostly coincidence I found myself living in Geneva, London, Montreal, and now in New York.

This has given me a wonderfully wide exposure to Iraqi Jews and to see for myself how homogeneous their new communities are, and my own affinity to all of them.

Most remarkable is how they all still keep very much together and are in close contact with all other Iraqi communities around the world. They maintain their traditions and in a very short time have been remarkably successful in their new environments.

Yet, many are only now beginning to realise the great importance of their cultural and religious heritage. *The Scribe* is playing a very important role in enhancing this awareness. Wherever I have lived, they all talk about and would like to receive *The Scribe*.

It is also remarkable how many of Iraqi descent I have met who have never been to Baghdad or spent most of their grown lives trying to assimilate in their new countries, who now love to return to their Iraqiness and its traditions, like myself. For us *The Scribe* is also a vital source of information, inspiration and pleasure. More Babylonian material in *The Scribe*!

The Babylonian Jews will not only defend their place in history, having been the oldest and longest-surviving Jewish community (over 2,500 years since B.C. 586), or through their religious contribution (The Talmud), their pure heritage, but I think it just as remarkable how they remain together as active Iraqi Jews not any longer on the shores of the Rivers of Babylon, but on the shores of all continents of this world and in its most important cities.

Is this because we were never ruled by the Romans, Greeks, Spaniards, Russians or Germans, who built fantastic civilisations but all with a formula of self-destruction?

Iraqi-Jewish community life in New York is surging with the creation of an Iraqi synagogue and a centre in Queens ●
New York

David E.R. Dangoor
Vice President, Philip Morris

THANK YOU FOR THE complimentary copy of the Baghdad Haggadah. I am most interested to know how the picture of the eminent Rabbis in the centre pages was put together; one of them, Hacham Elisha Dangoor, happens to be my mother's grandfather.

My Ashkenazi husband, who is from a good religious and rabbinic stock, and my three boys who take much pride in my ancestry, were fascinated by the Dangoor family tree and its many branches.

I qualified as a pharmacist in an English university where I met my husband who is a chartered accountant. I work in Edgware Hospital. Our sons are all committed to Judaism and Zionism. Each one spent a year of religious studies in Israel after finishing school and before going to University. The eldest has just qualified from Cambridge, the second is reading economics and the youngest is about to embark into medicine.

My eldest sister Flora lives in New York. Claire lives in Kenton. My brother Nessim is a Reader at Nottingham University and Elly lives in Montreal ●

Edgware, Middlesex Louise Kittsberg



The Emperor's Throne

Many years ago, an incident occurred which I wish to recall. We, the Toegs, the Dangoors and the Hilalys decided to spend our summer holiday in Kooling, China – a mountainous health resort, where all the rich Chinese used to go. After a few days stay in Kowloon, Morris Dangoor and I decided to go to Peking, the capital of China, together and left the family in Kooling. On arrival in Peking we went to visit the Chinese Exhibition Pavilion where all the presents brought by various European Ambassadors who visited China in those days offered the Emperor and we were very interested in all the presents. They included the beautiful French clocks many years old which worked perfectly. Morris wanted to sit on the Emperor's throne. He offered the guard a couple of dollars if he would allow him. The guard agreed and Morris, seated on the Emperor's chair, started to give orders which amused and pleased me. We visited also the marble boat in which the Empress used to sit and watch the beautiful lake where some water lily flowers were growing. After going round the Peking Capital we returned to Kooling happy with the visit and its memories ●

AUBREY HILALY

The Iraqi Jewish Community of Los Angeles

A party was recently held in the social hall of Temple Kahal Joseph, Los Angeles. It was an evening of music and dance and lots of fun. Also, a lecture was given there by Prof. Shmuel Moreh.

Funds were collected for various community purposes. The main contributors were the following:

Murad Avneri
Naim Kar (Kuweity)
Josef Dabby
Charles Dabby
Ezra Denis
Josef Barook
Itzhak Zada
Ruben Hazon
Lev Hakak
Eli Cohen
Jack Levi
Zvi Moalim
Edward Ozair
Victor Ozair
Saiedea Fashion Boutique
Edward Kay
Joshua Kay
Daniel Kay
Eli Kamara

Menashi Kamara
Kemal Shaby
Edward Shashoa
Barook Rijwan
Eli Shiri
Abc Iny
Foad Muktar
Abe Kattan
Naji Perry
Picanti Store

We are all looking forward with pride to continue this effort to enhance our goals and enjoy the richness of our tradition and the treasures of knowledge and wisdom of our Babylonian heritage, also to strengthen our ties with our Temple Kahal Joseph, to establish connections with Iraqi Jewish communities around the world, and further our assistance to the centre in Or Yehuda, Tel Aviv.

On this occasion we wish to extend our congratulations to our sister organisation formed by the Iraqi Jewish Community in New York for the opening of a social club Bene Naharayim ●

VICTOR OZAIR

Sir Victor Sassoon in Shanghai

by Percy Gourgey

"THE ONLY RACE greater than the Jewish race is the Derby," once exclaimed Sir Victor Sassoon, Third Baronet. A *bon viveur* and a handsome man about town, industrial magnate and race horse owner, his views were vindicated (for him) when he led his famous horse Pinza into the Owners Paddock in June 1953 having won the Derby and beaten the Queen's horse into second place. As befitting a multi-millionaire, Sir Victor, scion of a renowned family, indulged his whims by owning a hundred race horses.

During the First World War he was a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps, predecessor of the RAF, and owing to a plane crash his walk was impaired by a permanent limp. He inherited his vast business interests in India and China from his father Sir Ellice, and his uncle Sir Jacob Sassoon of Bombay, the First Baronet. Victor was the eldest grandson of Elias David Sassoon who founded E. D. Sassoon & Co after leaving the parent firm of David Sassoon & Co. "While I gave India up, China gave me up," Sir Victor said after World War II referring to the disposal of his many textile factories in Bombay and his considerable properties in Shanghai.

In Shanghai these included the well-known Cathay Hotel, Sassoon House, and his mansion at 2409 Hongkow Road, next door to the Shanghai zoo. Gable-roofed and timber-framed, the building was meant to have the air of a hunting lodge, and stood among an abundant grove of maple and poplar. Sir Victor sold the property to a flamboyant tycoon James Lee, shortly before the Japanese overran Shanghai. Since then the building has been a Japanese Naval Headquarters, a Gambling Casino and the private villa

of China's Gang of Four. Today the estate is a rented office and residence of the British Petroleum Co. Money was Shanghai's *raison d'être* and the Bank of China, standing next door to Sassoon House, was its stronghold. This building will always be associated with the chaos wrought by the Kuomintang Government on Chinese currency in the years before its fall ... Shanghai had allowed Sir Victor to give full play to his talent for pleasure, his passion for the turf and women, and his taste for expensive ivory and jade. In India he drove a huge yellow car with the numberplate EVE 1; his parties in Shanghai were legendary. He was always smartly dressed, and liked to be seen everywhere with a fashionable lady on his arm. He was convinced that no one would marry him except for his money. He did marry in the end (an American nurse who looked after him in his final years) but not until he was 78." He died in 1961 in the Bahamas.

In India he played a role in politics, as a member of the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi, during the British Raj, for which service he was awarded the GBE (Grand Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire). In Bombay he sold his many textile mills in 1944 and transferred the proceeds to the Bahamas. He proposed the toast to bride and groom at my sister's wedding in Bombay that year. He was the first President of the Central Jewish Board of Bombay, founded in 1943 to organise the Jewish community initially after attacks in the Moslem owned press on the Jews of Mandatory Palestine by M.A. Jinnah, the President of the All-India Moslem League, who later founded Pakistan.

Christian-Jewish Relations

MUCH DISAPPOINTMENT has been expressed at the Pope's reception to President Waldheim of Austria in the Vatican despite Waldheim's Nazi past. However, it should be recalled that the Pope visited a Rome synagogue in 1986 and there affirmed the validity of Judaism. But his equivocal attitude offers little comfort to those interested in improving Christian-Jewish relations.

It is therefore most interesting to observe that on 30 June 1987 the American United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio adopted a declaration on Judaism in which it made the following points:

a) "God's continuing covenantal relationship with the Jewish

people expressed in the faith of Judaism has been denied by the Christian Church and resulted in intolerable violence against the Jewish people.

- b) We ask for God's forgiveness and pray for divine grace.
- c) Christianity is not the successor-religion of Judaism.
- d) God's covenant with the Jewish people has not been abrogated.
- e) God is faithful in keeping His covenant with the Jewish people."

This Protestant Church has over a million members and is one of the 10 major Protestant denominations in the US and my attention was drawn to this important statement in a recent visit to New York ● P.S.G.

Jewish Diseases

THE TAY-SACHS DISEASE, a lethal, congenital metabolic disorder, affects overwhelmingly Jews of Ashkenazi descent. It is derived from a genetic mutation that occurred more than 500 years ago among the Jews of Poland, the Baltic States, the Ukraine and White Russia. A hundred times as many Jewish babies as non-Jewish babies are born with it.

The identification of diseases as hereditary is not new. What is new is the number of diseases described in recent years as "Jewish." They include Niemann-Pick and Gaucher's, each a fat-storage illness which, like Tay-Sachs, is fatal to infants. Then there is torsion dystonia, an ailment that affects the nervous system and occurs once in 20,000 births among Ashkenazi and Sephardi families. The Riley-Day syndrome also is a nervous disorder but limited in a similar ratio to Ashkenazi children. Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase defect is an enzyme deficiency that damages red blood cell metabolism and is dominant among Kurdish and Persian Jews. Familial Mediterranean fever is a digestive-tract disease which occurs most commonly in Jews of Sephardi or Armenian background.

Other diseases which tend to affect Jews more than other groups, although it is not certain that they are hereditary in origin, are regional enteritis and ulcerative colitis, which affect the digestive tract, and Buerger's disease, a vascular ailment named after its Jewish discoverer, half of whose sufferers are Jews, mostly male, all of them smokers.

While there are diseases from which Jews tend to suffer through inheritance, there are also diseases where incidence among Jews is low. Some physicians feel that Jews are more resistant to developing cirrhosis of the liver. There are those who attribute this to the rarity of alcoholism among Jews.

It is also said that Jews have a higher resistance to tuberculosis. One theory is that crowded ghetto conditions killed off many persons prone to TB, leaving a population that was more resistant, and this "immunity" was passed on to later generations.

It is well known that there is a lower incidence of cancer of the cervix among Jewish women of all origins. This is attributed to environmental, not genetic, factors, including less promiscuity, better hygiene among Jewish men and women, and male circumcision.

(Some Iraqi Jews suffer from an allergy called "G6PD" originating from drinking water from the Tigris) ●

Sadduq Haddin

THE JEWISH RELIGION contains what may appear to be an extraordinary doctrine that death is the consequence of sin and a sinless person would necessarily be immortal: 'There is no death without sin.' Every death, therefore, is a death sentence passed by the Almighty. If you ask, What about babies and infants who die prematurely; what sins could they have committed? The reply comes: The sins of the fathers are visited on the children.

While we are allowed to mourn the passing of a relative or friend, we are not allowed to complain. Indeed, a mourner is even required to confirm the death sentence by reciting before burial the benediction *Sadduq Haddin* (confirmation of the sentence) which states that God is a true Judge and all His judgements are true and just. The Qaddish which every mourner is also required to recite on many occasions praises the Almighty and declares our submission to His will.

The Jewish attitude to death may appear to be just a roundabout way of saying: We are all going to die. It is said that death is the strongest thing which God created in the Universe. My late grandmother used to say, *abnawt haq walhayat batila*: death is the rule and life is transient. This is a despairing attitude. The Jewish religious approach offers a glimmer of hope: eliminate sin and you will live for ever! What then is this sin which has condemned every member of the human race to death, almost without exception? Spinoza says that all sin is due to ignorance. I say that ignorance itself is the greatest sin. Our task is to conquer ignorance by acquiring wisdom:

'The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;

'By understanding He established the heavens.'

Also from Proverbs, the following quotation is written in letters of gold at the entrance of the Kensington Library:

'The beginning of Wisdom is: get wisdom;

'And with all thy getting get understanding.

'Exalt her, and she will exalt thee; 'Keep her, for she is thy life!'

When we conquer ignorance we shall indeed discover the secret of eternal life. Indeed, *Sadduq Haddin* ends on this hopeful note by saying: 'May death be conquered forever!' In the meantime, we are imperfect beings and as such we deserve neither eternal

Jewish & Arab Refugees

FOLLOWING THE LECTURE recently given by Mordechai Ben-Porat at the Knesset before the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography of the Council of Europe, and their request for written information, Mr Ben-Porat sent the following data:

1. Dispersion of the Palestinian Arabs throughout the world:

LOCATION	TOTAL POPULATION		REFUGEES	
	WOJAC Estimate (1985)	Data from PLO Sources (1979)	by UNRWA Definition (1981)	Data from Israeli Sources Re: Camp Residents (1979)
Israel	749,000	530,600	-	-
Judea-Samaria	813,000	818,300	334,400	75,000
Gaza	525,500	467,700	370,200	160,000
Jordan	1,100,000	1,160,800	732,600	96,000
Lebanon	220,000	347,100	232,400	114,000
Kuwait	200,000	278,800	-	-
Other Gulf States including Saudi Arabia				
Oman, Qatar, Iraq				
Bahrain, UAE	180,000	252,400	-	-
Syria	150,000	215,500	215,100	32,000
Egypt	50,000	48,500	-	-
Libya	25,000	23,000	-	-
Others	220,000	238,300	-	-
TOTAL	4,390,900	4,390,000	1,884,700	477,000

2. The number of Jews who arrived in Israel as refugees from "Arab" countries was 600,000 at the inception of the State of Israel and has today reached 2,000,000 living throughout the world - notably in Israel, where they constitute 44% of the Jewish population.

3. The World's contributions to UNRWA Funds from 1950 to 1984:

Algeria	0	Qatar	3,570,728
Bahrain	208,867	Saudi Arabia	63,031,172
S. Yemen	750	Somalia	0
Yemen	4,000	Sudan	217,047
Egypt	5,547,254	Syria	3,545,087
Iraq	10,457,229	Tunisia	157,354
Jordan	8,408,029	UAE	7,055,927
Kuwait	17,362,860	OPEC	3,723,450
Libya	18,925,090	Non-Gov. Organisations	41,361,029
Lebanon	1,938,563	EEC	242,254,162
Morocco	982,909	Israel	11,443,413
Oman	330,000	USA	1,134,364,592
TOTAL UN INCOME			\$2,539,651,480

In addition to the US\$11,443,413 paid directly to UNWRA, the State of Israel has covered:

- Costs of the military administration;
- The cost of the absorption of 600,000 Jews who arrived as refugees from "Arab" countries, amounting to some 10 billion U.S. Dollars.

life, life after death, nor resurrection from the dead. How can convicted sinners who suffer the death sentence aspire to these? We have to content ourselves with our worldly existence as a wonderful gift from God.

The Torah is silent on life after death and resurrection from the dead because it does not accept and condemns these beliefs that were so widespread in Egypt and elsewhere.

N.E.D.

The Holocaust and Sephardi Jews

WITH THE DEATH of Rudolph Hess, Hitler's Deputy Fuehrer, in a Berlin jail on 17 August, an unrepentant Nazi to the end, once again attention is drawn to the enormity of Nazi crimes against humanity.

While Ashkenazi Jews perished in their millions in Hitler's gas chambers during the Second World War in the greatest crime in history, it is necessary to focus attention on the 60,000 Sephardi Salonika Jews in Greece who were also massacred in the Holocaust. Considerable numbers of other Sephardi Jews in the Balkans also perished. It is known that the notorious ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin al-Husseini, befriended Hitler and played a part in persuading him to include these Jews in "the Final Solution" which was planned in the infamous Wannsee Conference in Berlin in January 1942. It is also known that the ex-Mufti met Hitler on 28 November 1941 to discuss the possibility of Arab forces aiding the Nazi armies in their sweep across the Middle East under Rommel. Indeed many Arabs had already been recruited for this purpose, in the DAS (Deutsch-Arab-Lish Zehrobteilung) in Greece.

On 6 May 1962 a ceremony took place in the cemetery of Salonika and a monument was unveiled in memory of the dead of the Jewish community tragically and almost completely decimated by Nazi racial hatred. All the authorities were represented including representatives of the Spanish Embassy. Franco was in power in Spain and during the war he offered refuge to many Jews fleeing the Hitler terror.

After the Second World War a number of Nazi criminals found refuge in Arab countries, including Syria and Egypt. This is not surprising given the intellectual and psychological attitudes resulting from Arab and Islamic hatred of the Jews based on the Koran. Hence the inability to accept the Jewish State, Israel.

"Those who do not remember the lessons of history are condemned to repeat its mistakes," said George Santanaya, the famous Spanish writer. The significant impact of the Holocaust on the contemporary scene must be seen in efforts to combat racism in all its forms while antisemitism continues to rear its ugly head not least in Arab terrorism against the Jews also outside Israel. Thus this aspect of the Holocaust – the slaughter of Sephardi Jews – could shed new light on the far-reaching implications of this monstrous crime against humanity ●

Portrait of a Friend

by Victor Ozair

THE FIRST TIME I met Professor Shmuel Moreh was in 1947 at the arena of Shamash school in Baghdad when he was engaged in a boxing match. Then I had just moved from Alliance school to Shamash and heard about the boxing hero Sami Mualim (later changed in Israel to Shmuel Moreh).

In our class group at Shamash Daniel Khazzoom was studying with us. He is presently Professor of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley. There was also Sasson Somek, who is now Professor of Modern Arabic Literature at Tel Aviv University, and Raymond Moreh, Shmuel Moreh's brother, who is Professor of Nuclear Physics at the University of Beer Sheva, Israel. All five of us were in a continuous strife to excel in our studies while similarly indulging in our hobbies. Shmuel Moreh together with Daniel Khazzoom and Sasson Somek were involved in sport, literature, poetry, story writing and art. I had different hobbies – dancing at the dance institute, literary debates at the British Council, English literature and scientific novelties, the literature of which I shared with Raymond Moreh.

Then there was the mass emigration to Israel and everyone of us took a separate road. Shmuel Moreh went to study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, then at the University of London. I went to the Technion, then to the Weizmann Institute of Science, and after that to the University of Toronto. It was at the Weizmann Institute of Science in 1962, when I met Raymond Moreh, who was a doctorant in nuclear physics in my department.

Professor Shmuel Moreh was appointed a senior lecturer for Arabic Language and Literature at the Hebrew University in 1970. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1975, then to Full Professor in 1983. Professor Shmuel Moreh has had a rich academic background throughout the years. He has participated in numerous academic conferences and international congresses. He has won several scholarships and academic honours. He is the author and editor of tens of books and hundreds of articles. I have ten pages listing his publications and research projects. His book on modern Arabic poetry was translated from English to Arabic and published in Cairo in 1969. His academic activities involve subjects on Arabic language and literature, Arabic theatre, also accomplishments in research projects on the folklore, tradition, literature, culture and history of the Babylonian Jewry. He has strived to provide oppor-

COOKERY CORNER

Hekaka without Tears

by *Gastronome*

EVERY WELL-COOKED rice dish, whether it is tbeet, kechri or just plain rice, should produce at the bottom of the saucepan a chewy/crusty layer called *hekaka* which is considered a delicacy, and is offered at the table to favoured guests. Hekaka means "scrapings" and it was removed from the saucepan by using a special scoop called *kefkeer* that was a standard implement in every kitchen. One 18th century Baghdadian wedding list included a gold *kefkeer* as part of the bride's dowry.

Middle Eastern cookery books give no clear directions on how to make a good *hekaka*.

To produce a good *hekaka*, not undercooked or burnt, was an art in itself. To remove it in large pieces from the pan was equally difficult. On Saturday the sound of the *kefkeer* in action on the tbeet was music to our ears and added one more sense to the enjoyment of that special Shabbath treat.

It was Moshi the cook who recently gave the news that one Iraqi family in Hendon was producing perfect *hekaka* every time, but he could not discover the secret. However, my wife recently bought a non-stick saucepan with a vented cover. And when rice was cooked in it – hey presto; perfect, unplanned *hekaka* that did not stick to the pan, and came off in one piece – similar to the method used for making a rice mould ●

tunities for the Jewish Iraqi students either financially or academically. He is the previous chairman of the academic committee of the Iraqi Jewish Traditional Culture Center in Or Yehuda, Tel Aviv.

The Iraqi Jewish Community of Los Angeles was lucky to have Professor Moreh choosing Los Angeles for his sabbatical year. We do thank him abundantly for his insistence in reminding us to organise and to serve and for the numerous lectures he gave us on Jewish subjects. Prof. Moreh left on July 6, for London, where he will spend three months at the University of London then return to Israel before October 13, 1987 at which date there will be the Grand Opening of the Center and the Museum of the Iraqi Jews Traditional Culture Center ●

(We understand from Prof. Moreh that the opening has been postponed for one year – Scribe.)