

Dutch Stumbling Stones

The political events of the 1920s and '30s, leading up to WW2, were the catalyst for a huge movement of people who foresaw disaster for themselves if they stayed put. Most Jews who didn't make it to Britain, America or the Far East were doomed.

This was the case with our member David Rothenberg's maternal grandmother, Kaethe Hannes Glaser (1890-1943), who moved to Holland from Breslau (now Wroclaw in Poland) on her husband's death from cancer in 1936. Her two teenage sons had already been sent to an American family and their older sister had reached England with husband and baby daughter. But Kaethe was caught in Leiden, a beautiful university town teeming with bicycles and canals. She was sent back to Germany and gassed on arrival at Auschwitz (19 November 1943).

On Wednesday 15 June this year David was present for the placing of a Stolperstein in the pavement abutting the low garden wall of the last house she stayed in before being deported. She was not the only victim picked up from that address. Two plaques were placed, with municipal workers on hand, at 1 Mezenstraat.

Our 25-strong group visited several similar places, led by local volunteer Barbera Bikker. Then we gathered in a university hall to hear from Barbera about her work in this field for 30 years. She does this on behalf of the Dutch institution *Herdenking Jodenvervolging* (Remembering Persecution of Jews).

"I am pleased there is now some form of memorial for my grandmother," David said. Incidentally, he was born in London on 10 May 1940, the day that Germany invaded Holland. His parents had got out in time.

Ruth Rothenberg

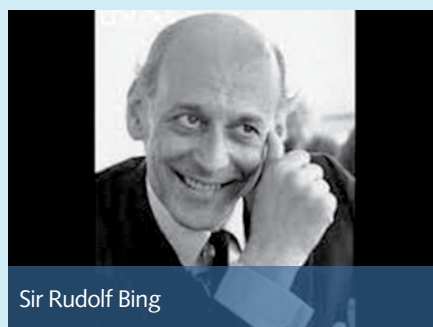


Ruth and David Rothenberg in Leiden, Holland

EDINBURGH @ 75

Seventy-five years after the Austrian impresario and Jewish refugee Sir Rudolf Bing co-founded the Edinburgh International Festival, the 2022 Festival is celebrating the profound contribution to arts and culture given by the movement of people across the globe.

Born in 1902 in Vienna, Sir Rudolf studied music and art history at the University of Vienna before relocating to Berlin in 1927. Forced to flee from the Nazis, Bing began his UK career at Glyndebourne before co-founding the Edinburgh Festival. He resigned to go to the Metropolitan Opera in New York, a post he held for 22 years.



Sir Rudolf Bing

This year's special *Refuge* season includes contemporary theatre, dance, visual art, film and conversation, all exploring themes of refugeehood, migration, identity and inclusion. The intention is to encourage festival goers to consider what it means to be international in today's world.

Events with particular appeal to AJR members include a concert by the Philharmonia Chamber Players which honours Hans Gál, another Jewish refugee, and the inaugural Rudolf Bing Memorial



Lecture, presented in association with the Edinburgh Jewish Cultural Centre. AJR Chief Executive Michael Newman will also be speaking at a special Interfaith Service at Edinburgh's St Giles Cathedral on Sunday 7 August.

The full Festival programme, including details of the *Refuge* season, can be downloaded from www.eif.co.uk