

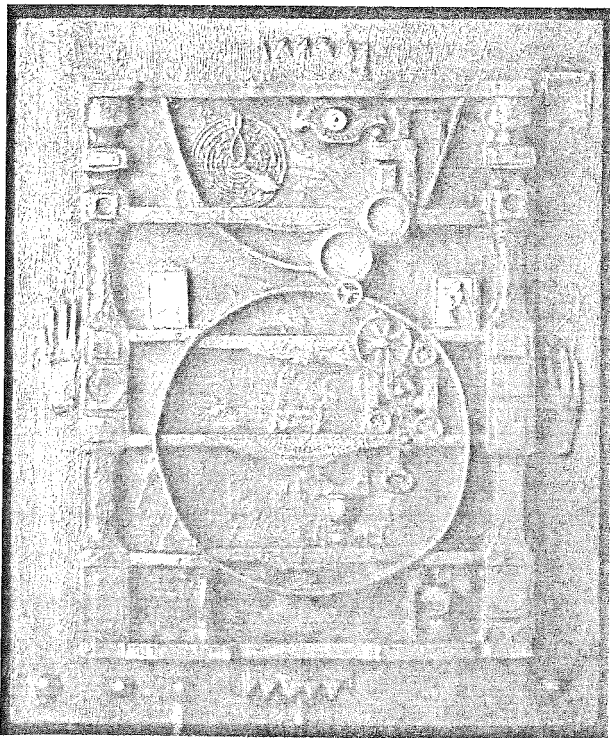
WAHL, JACQUES HENRI (1932–), French civil servant. Wahl was born in Lille, N. France, where his father had a small business. After graduation from the prestigious School for National Administration, he entered the French civil service and held a senior position in the Ministry of Finance. From 1970 to 1972 he was economic minister at the French Embassy in Washington and was a member of the board of the International Monetary Fund. In 1978 he was appointed secretary-general of the Élysée Palace, a post regarded as equivalent to that of chief of staff at the White House. [Ed.]

WARBURG (see 16:281). David Farrer's *The Warburgs* (1975) traces the history of the family in Europe and the United States. At present, apart from the U.S. branch, members of the family include Erich Warburg who has restored the original Warburg Bank in Hamburg, and Sir Siegmund George Warburg in England, described by Farrer as "master of the takeover bid."

WARBURG, GAVRIEL REUBEN (1927–), Israeli orientalist. Warburg, a grandson of Otto *Warburg, was born in Berlin, Germany, but emigrated with his parents to Palestine in 1934. From 1946 to 1964 he was a member of kibbutz Yehi'am. In 1968 he was appointed lecturer in the Department of Middle Eastern History of the University of Haifa, was chairman of the department from 1969 to 1972, senior research Fellow at the Research Institute on Commu-

nist Affairs and at the Middle East Institute at Columbia University in New York from 1972 to 1973, and in the latter year was appointed associate professor at Haifa. In 1974 he was appointed rector of the University. Warburg has published: *The Sudan Under Wingate* (1971); *The Rise and Decline of the Sudanese Communist Party* (1974), and *Popular Islam and Tribal Leadership in the Socio-political Structure of North Sudan* (1974; Hebrew, 1970). [Ed.]

WEBER, KOLOMAN (d. 1931), Czechoslovakian Orthodox rabbi. Weber attended yeshivot in Pressburg (*Bratislava), where he received *semikhah*. He served first as rabbi of Rete but made his name as rabbi of *Piastany, Slovakia, where he remained for 29 years, waging a bitter battle against Neologists and Zionists. After World War I, Weber was instrumental in organizing the autonomous Orthodox *Zentralkanzlei* of Jewish communities in Slovakia, which he headed autocratically for 12 years. In March 1926, Emil *Margulies accused Weber in the *Selbstwehr* of expropriating for his own use large sums from the American Jews' Central Relief Committee, and Weber took legal action against him. In the course of the trial it came out that Weber and Rabbi Simon Hirschler had received 100,000 crowns in order to split the Jewish vote in Subcarpathian Ruthenia by creating a "Jewish Economic Party," thus keeping the *Židovská strana* (the "Jewish Party") out of parliament and benefitting the ruling Agrarian party. Although he lost his suit, neither his power nor combativeness suffered. He died a few years later in an accident. [H.W.]



"The Timepiece" by Shraga Weill.

WEILL, SHRAGA (1918–), Israeli artist. Weill was born in Nitra, Czechoslovakia. He first studied sculpture with a local sculptor, but continued at the Prague School of Art. His first graphic works were produced during World War II, part of which he spent in prison having been convicted of membership in the underground movement. Weill immigrated to Israel in 1947 and settled in kibbutz Ha-Ogen. During 1949–1955 he worked as an illustrator, illustrating several books of poems and biblical stories, such as Lea *Goldberg's "The Love of Samson," "The Song of Songs," and the "Dead Sea Scrolls," with drawing depicting desert landscapes or local people. In 1954, he studied in Paris at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. Weill works in many artistic media—painting, drawing, illustration, mural painting, and reliefs. In 1965, he illustrated *Kohelet* (the Book of Ecclesiastes) with more abstract stylization, but a continuity of his earlier style is still noticeable. He was commissioned to prepare several large works for public buildings, including metal reliefs for the doors of the main entrance to the Knesset building in Jerusalem (1966), in which he used popular symbols and motifs, diffusing them in an abstract composition with biblical and Jewish subjects; a relief for the Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv; one for the Wolfson House at the Weizmann Institute, Rehovot; and another for the Israel Pavilion at "Expo 67," Montreal, Canada. His works are