



Thomas Mann: Doctor Faustus. New York: Knopf, 1948.  
Dust jacket by Georg Salter © Janet Salter Rosenberg, Trustee of the George Salter Estate / German National Library

## History

The German National Library in Frankfurt am Main began collecting German books and periodicals written in exile shortly after its foundation in 1946. Its first Director, the literary historian Hanns Wilhelm Eppelsheimer, and exiled publicists and authors from the “Schutzverband Deutscher Schriftsteller in der Schweiz” (Association of German Authors in Switzerland), Walter Fabian and Jo Mihaly among them, decided in 1948 in Zurich to establish a “Bibliothek der Emigrationsliteratur” at the Deutsche Bibliothek, as it was then known.

As early as 1965 the Frankfurt exile collection presented its *Exil-Literatur 1933-1945* exhibition which acted as a catalyst for further exile research in West Germany.

The 1969 Law regarding the Deutsche Bibliothek created the conditions that allowed the special collection to be expanded into today’s German Exile Archive 1933-1945. Since the early 1970s, it has acquired the estates of emigrants and the archives of exile organisations, both of which now form the focus of the collection. Dated 22 June 2006, the Law regarding the German National Library defines the work of the German Exile Archive 1933-1945 as a function of the German National Library.

## The Archive in Numbers

- more than 19,000 books and brochures; also 13,000 volumes of some 1,200 periodicals
- 309 complete and partial estates
- some 860 collections of archival materials, extensive collections of correspondence, individual letters, manuscripts etc.
- 1,770 leaflets
- some 34,200 press cuttings
- reference library containing some 4,000 volumes
- reading room for eight users
- information service in the library, by phone, e-mail, fax and letter

## Contact

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## Opening Hours

Reading Room German Exile Archive:  
Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Guided Tours:**  
Contact [exilarchiv@dnb.de](mailto:exilarchiv@dnb.de) to arrange guided tours of the archive and exhibitions.

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German National Library

## GERMAN EXILE ARCHIVE 1933-1945



DEUTSCHES  
EXILARCHIV  
1933-1945  
DEUTSCHE  
NATIONAL  
BIBLIOTHEK

## The German Exile Archive 1933-1945

It is a special function of the German National Library to collect and index printed and non-printed material written by German-speaking emigrants between 1933 and 1945. The German National Library maintains two exile collections: The Collection of Exile Literature 1933-1945 (Sammlung Exil-Literatur 1933-1945) in Leipzig, and the German Exile Archive 1933-1945 (Deutsches Exilarchiv 1933-1945) in Frankfurt am Main. Both collections were merged, thematically and organisationally, in 2016.

The German Exile Archive 1933-1945 collects publications by German-speaking emigrants as well as their personal papers and documents from the years of the Nazi dictatorship. The publications include all the books, brochures and periodicals published outside Germany by German-speaking emigrants between 1933 and 1950 in the fields of literature, politics, science and Jewish emigration. The personal estates of German-speaking emigrants from all areas of expertise and professional groups are collected, as are the archives of exile organisations, and individual letters and manuscripts.



Erna Pinner: draft design for “Wonders of Animal Life”, 1944.  
Published by Penguin Books, West Drayton [1945]  
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Frendt Ho Willoughby ave	Gl 1896
Gimpel Ho 105 <sup>th</sup> Clark Dr	Cr 14726
Gymes Ho Vine Street	Ho 0681
Kaus Ho 1245 Dohenny Dr.	Cr 68282
Kortner SM 333 25th Str	SM 58875
Landshof Ho 8300 Grandview Dr	GK 884 7279
Mann 1550 N. Van Rensselaer	SM 54405
Schoenberg BR 116 N. Rockingham rd	Ar 35077 Op1
Torberg Ho 4440 Yucca Trail	Gr 8790
Viertel SM mabery rd	SM 55568
Werfel Ho Los Tillos rd.	He 1280
Widier BR Beverly-Wilshire	Gr 67111
Adorno 316 S Kenter ave Brentwood Heights	Ar 95472
Brunn Ho 845 North Laurel	WH 2222

Soma Morgenstern's telephone directory, Los Angeles, c. 1942

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## The Collection

### Publications:

- first editions of books and brochures written by emigrants, reprints thereof, as well as translations and anthologies in which emigrants had a hand
- books published, translated, illustrated or designed by emigrants
- everything produced by exiled publishing houses
- camouflaged writings (“Tarnschriften”)
- publications issued by Jewish publishing houses and organisations in Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia after 1933
- periodicals and newspapers published by parties and organisations, cultural and ideological groups as well as individuals in exile

### Archival material:

- archives of exile organisations:
  - including the Archiv der Deutschen Akademie im Exil / American Guild for German Cultural Freedom, New York; the Archive of the Emergency Rescue Committee, New York; and the Deutscher PEN-Club im Exil 1933–1940
- complete estates, partial estates, and collections:
  - of publicists including Margarete Buber-Neumann, Walter Fabian, Kurt Hiller, Hubertus Prinz zu Löwenstein, Rudolf Olden, Wilhelm Sternfeld, Werner Thormann
  - of writers including Ulrich Becher, Richard A. Bermann, Iwan Heilbut, Gertrud Isolani, Emma Kann, H. W. Katz, Gina Kaus, Walter Meckauer, Soma Morgenstern, Leo Perutz, Wilhelm Speyer, Stefanie Zweig
  - of scientists including Ossip K. Flechtheim, Paul Frankl, Hermann M. Görgen, Ernst Loewy, Joseph and Alice Maier, Ernst Moritz and Marianne Manasse, Sigmund Neumann, Fritz Neumark, Karl Obermann, Ernest Schachtel
  - of artists including Fred Jordan, Erna Pinner, Eric Schaal
  - of the representatives of other professions, among them Alfredo Cahn, Lisa Fittko, Rudolph S. Joseph, Paul Koretz, Hertha Nathorff
- collections about emigrants including Heinrich Mann, Thomas Mann, Arnold Zweig and Stefan Zweig
- extensive correspondence including letters from Lion Feuchtwanger to Eva Herrmann, correspondence between Alfred Kerr and Johann Plesch, and between Katia Mann and Eugen Kerpely
- small collections, individual letters and manuscripts
- archives of exile researchers including Hildegard Feidel-Mertz, John M Spalek, Günter Peter Straschek, Hans-Albert Walter

## Cataloguing

The exile publications can be retrieved online in the catalogue of the German National Library.

Catalogue records of archival materials acquired before 2005 can be found in the conventional catalogues of the German Exile Archive.

## Use

Users of the collection can consult material in the Reading Room. Non-printed holdings may be consulted by appointment only; special usage regulations apply for personal right and copyright reasons. Documents concerning living persons may only be viewed with their permission.

## Reference Library and Archive of Press Cuttings

The extensive reference libraries in Leipzig and Frankfurt am main contain the following items: reference works about exile as experienced by German speakers; autobiographies and editions of letters; secondary literature about emigrants; and reprints of exile periodicals.

The archive of press cuttings since the 1970s is on open access and contains articles about German-speaking emigrants between 1933 and 1945.

## Exhibitions and Publications

With its exhibitions and publications, the German Exile Archive 1933–1945 takes the printed and non-printed documents of German-speaking emigrants beyond specialist circles and introduces them to the wider public. The topics covered extend from individuals (such as *Kurt Tucholsky*, *Joseph Roth*, *Leo Perutz*, *Rudolf Olden*, *Soma Morgenstern*) and exile organisations and political groups (e.g. *Der deutsche PEN-Club im Exil*; *Deutsche Intellektuelle im Exil. Ihre Akademie und die “American Guild for German Cultural Freedom”*) through to individual countries providing asylum (including *Deutsche Literatur im Exil in den Niederlanden* or “...mehr vorwärts als rückwärts schauen...” - *Das deutschsprachige Exil in Brasilien 1933–1945*), and theme-based presentations (e.g. *Die jüdische Emigration aus Deutschland 1933–1941. Die Geschichte einer Austreibung*; “...er teile mit uns allen das Exil”. *Goethebilder der deutschsprachigen Emigration 1933–1945*; *Buchgestaltung im Exil*; “*Meinem besten Porträtisten*” - *Porträtfotografien und -zeichnungen aus den Beständen des Deutschen Exilarchivs 1933–1945*).

To coincide with the centenary celebrations of the German National Library, the German Exile Archive 1933–1945 of the German National Library staged the “*Fremd bin ich den Menschen dort*” exhibition, with Nobel Prize laureate Herta Müller acting as patron. The permanent “*Exile. Experience and Testimony*” exhibition opened at the Frankfurt site in March 2018.

Virtual exhibitions represent a special form of presentation. The cooperative virtual exhibition sponsored by the German Federal Government Commissioner for Cultural and Media Affairs, and the *Arts in Exile* network ([www.arts-in-exile.de](http://www.arts-in-exile.de)) headed by the German Exile Archive 1933–1945 went online in September 2013.

The new permanent exhibition “*Exile. Experience and Testimony*” is accompanied by a virtual exhibition ([exilarchiv.dnb.de](http://exilarchiv.dnb.de)).



Joseph Roth. Paris, 1939. Sketch by Bil Spira. Ink on paper, signed  
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