Victims of history

A German historical institute acknowledges its own dark history with an online exhibition honoring the memory of seven Jewish medievalists who were expelled from its ranks during the time of the Third Reich

Yitzhak Hen

On April 16, 1939, Prof. Wilhelm Levison and his wife, Elsa, secretly fled their home in the western German town of Bonn. Levison, who was in his early 40s, was already a world-renowned medieval historian. Following the passage of the Nuremberg Laws in 1935, Levison had been forced to resign from his position at the University of Berlin, and his academic career was blocked because of his Jewish heritage; his brother, who lived in Britain.

Levison did not forget his homeland, despite the place of his birth. In 1941, his youngest son, Boris, who was 18 at the time, left Germany, despite the blockage of his academic career.

Levison was eventually forced to leave Germany in 1942 and fled to the United States. He spent the rest of his life as a professor at Columbia University.

Levison's work on the medieval history of Germany and France and Italy.

Institute of Ancient German History.

Levison died in 1961.

For years, Katz's findings were attacked by historians. Until now. Now, at a festival in Utah, would seem to undo the version that took root following the testimonies of the soldiers. Though the testimonies of the soldiers were broken sentences, in fragments of context, Katz, some by Schwarz, were given in broken sentences, in fragments of context.

As a tribute to Katz, a recently launched online exhibition commemorates the memory of seven Jewish medievalists who were expelled from its ranks during the time of the Third Reich.

The establishment of the MGH, with the support and encouragement of the Prussian statesman and reformer Baron Heinrich Friedrich Karl Freiherr von Stein, was part of the wave of nationalism and Romanticism that swept over Europe in the late-19th and early-20th centuries. The MGH was established by Friedrich Karl Freiherr von Stein, who was denied tenure as a result of his Jewish heritage.

The collection of texts and primary sources dealing with German history is housed in the Historical and Political Research Institute, which was established in 1813 with the aim of editing and publishing primary sources dealing with German history.

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WEEKEND

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were the pillars of research at the MSH, were initially permitted to continue their work, but their ability to function was gradually curtailed, and they were forced to retire one by one. The MSH in its new form became another tool in the well-oiled propaganda machine of the Nazi Party. Competing for control of the institution were the philosopher Karl August Edschmid, who supported the Nazi students' association, and Wilhelm Engel, who had the support of historian Walter Frank, the director of the National Institute for the History of the New Germany and a confidant of Nazi Party's chief ideologue Alfred Rosenberg. Frank got the upper hand, and under Engel's leadership, Nazi ideology and rhetoric dominated the institute's publications. All contact with Jewish scholars was forbidden and their earlier contributions to the editing enterprise were concealed, and in some cases completely erased. In 1940, with the end of the war, the MSH returned to its prior research format and continued to exist today as one of the world's most important institutions for the study of modern history, literature and culture.

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Last year, Germany marked 1,700 years of Jewish settlement in Germany. Why? On December 11, 321, Roman Emperor Constantine the Great issued a decree that forbade Christian raiders to enter Jewish territories. The founders of the city council of Cologne (now the city council of Cologne) - this is the first certain evidence of Jewish settlement in Germany. The exhibition “Between Patriotism and Emotion” at the MSH reviews a biography of several exceptional researchers, accompanied by dozens of fascinating documents related to their lives, work and contributions to MSH. The opening event was attended by a large crowd of experts and visitors. The exhibition includes a visit to the MSH library, in Munich, I took a book whose cover had been stamped with a Nazi seal. When I pointed to the symbol and gave an inquiring look to Rudolf Schäffer, the historian's director at the time, who was sitting next to me, he said, "This is our history! We must come to terms with it!" The exhibition is an attempt to come to terms with its past. The fascinating online exhibition is but one example of that, and it deserves all manner of praise and respect. The exhibition is on view: [here](https://www.msh.de/en/victims)

VICTIMS

Continued from page 3