

EXILE IN AMSTERDAM ZUID:

GERMANY ON THE RUN

A European Memorial Project

German speaking refugees have been in exile in Amsterdam during the NS-time: Women, men and children from countries that are today Hesse, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westfalia, Berlin, Bremen, Hamburg, the Saarland, the Alsace, Bavaria, Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony, Mecklenburg-Hither Pomerania, Saxony, Thuringia, Poland, the Czech Republic and Austria had found refuge in the Netherlands. Until the Wehrmacht marched in, they had been safe. In this project we are looking for the traces they have left and would like to combine the results of local, regional and international research. Against the background of today's refugee debate, we wish to do something for the memory of the German refugees of the NS-time.

Our historical society Lastoria, Bremen, invites you to join in.

Last address: Rivierenbuurt

The sculpture of a girl on Merwedeplein and four Stolpersteine remind us of family Frank from Frankfurt/Main who lived in the riverquarter (Rivierenbuurt) in Southern Amsterdam before they went into hiding. In the bookshop around the corner that Gert-Jan Jimmink runs today, Otto Frank has bought the diary for his youngest daughter. In the neighbourhood, the German photographer Annemie Wolff had her studio. In Amsterdam Zuid, Betty Baer, the widow of Karl Baer from Frankfurt who had died in Amsterdam, was registered, together with her son Alfred until they were deported and murdered. Unaccompanied minor refugees lived in the newly built quarter, grandparents who had hesitatingly left their homeland, Jewish physicians who got no permission to practice in the Netherlands, either, singles who founded a family there. In the Rivierenbuurt, they lived door to door with other refugees and Dutch neighbours.

Call for exchange

Human rights are a central topic in every project of our historical society. In our first researches in Amsterdam, our focus was on Betty Baer, nee Sondheim. Her story is told in our book series about her homevillage Ober-Gleen. Her name is on Joods Monument, along with the name of Werner Deutschland from Bremen, the names of the members of family Bienes from Frankfurt, the name of the singer Günter Witepski from Kassel and of Marie Veith from Mannheim. Who have been the German speaking refugees in the Rivierenbuurt? Who has helped them? What has happened to them? This is what „Germany on the Run“ is all about. Our historical society Lastoria has started it in 2016 and tries to get in contact with researchers, timewitnesses and relatives of survivors in Amsterdam, Germany, Great-Britain and overseas. We would like to discuss the results of our research and to encourage the exchange of local and regional informations on an international level, hoping that photos and other material will be send to websites such as Joods Monuments, Vor dem Holocaust, Alemannia Judaica or to Stolpersteingroups. As soon as there is a kind of network, there could even be get-togethers in Germany or the Netherlands.

Write to us

„Deutschland auf der Flucht“ (Germany on the Run) is an open history workshop. For a start, Monika Felsing, the author of our bookseries about Ober-Gleen, has written „Letzte Adresse: Biesboschstraat/Last address: Biesboschstraat“ and put a list online with the hometowns of German speaking refugees of the Rivierenbuurt. Lists with the names of inhabitants of the Rivierenbuurt will follow. German and English articles of the historian who works as a volunteer in the projects of our historical society are meant as first examples for researches, as a basis for exchange, like the one about the photographer Annemie Wolff (Magische Momente/Magical Moments) or the one about the “Lost train“ (Hitlers Geiseln/Hitler’s Hostages).

The articles and the lists are on www.monikafelsing.de under Projekte/Amsterdam/mehr (more), while on our website www.lastoria-bremen.de, there will be informations about the actual status of the project. The address for contacts is mail@lastoria-bremen.de. Do you have any questions, advice or informations for us? Please contact us.