



Deutsches Technikmuseum, Trebbiner Str. 9, 10963 Berlin

Dr. Tiziana Zugaro
Telefon 030-90 254-224
Fax 030-90 254-175
e-mail zugaro@sdtb.de

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Orenstein & Loewe: Twenty German-Jewish Engineers, Inventors and Photographers 1933–1945 Special Exhibition 20.02. – 31.12.2013

Until 1933 it was largely irrelevant whether a German engineer, inventor, photographer or industrialist was a practising Jew or had any Jewish ancestry. That was to change dramatically when Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party took power on 30 January 1933. Soon, all over Germany, Jewish civil servants were being sacked, Jewish photographers and journalists boycotted, and Jewish inventors and industrialists driven into exile or murdered.

By the time of the Night of Broken Glass five years later, on 9 November 1938, anti-Semitism had become the order of the day – making no exception for the many Jews working in the fields covered by the German Museum of Technology, such as inventors and engineers. The so-called “Aryanisation” of economic life deprived them of the means to earn a living and stripped them of their rights. Anyone who was still able attempted to emigrate. Deportations to the death camps began in October 1941 and few European Jews lived to experience the end of the war in 1945.

This special exhibition presenting the stories of twenty prominent men from Jewish families whose life and work is closely associated with the fields addressed by the German Museum of Technology is a part of the Berlin-wide theme for 2013: Diversity Destroyed. It was developed as a collaborative project involving staff across the museum. Photographs and objects exhibited throughout the museum spotlight great names from the history of technology who were publicly defamed during the Nazi period.

Behind these names stand people whose life work was destroyed: the radio manufacturer Manfred Aron, the chemist Richard Brinn, the pharmacist Arthur Eichengrün, the photographer Fritz Eschen, the torpedo specialist Herbert Otto von Klemperer, the railway director Paul Levy, the sugar producer Edmund Oskar von Lippmann, the radio industrialist Siegmund Loewe, the vehicle manufacturer Arthur Müller, the shelving manufacturer Julius Seligsohn-Netter, the locomotive manufacturer Alfred Orenstein, the social policymaker Ernst G. Preuß, the photographer Henry Ries, the inventor and journalist Georg Rothgießer, the aircraft designer Edmund Rumpler, the photographer Erich Salomon, the radio engineer Carl Schapira, the aircraft designer Erich Schatzki, the tram conductor Georg Speyer and the railway administrator Ernst Spiro.

Here, for the first time, the German Museum of Technology draws attention to the impact of Nazi persecution, exclusion and dispossession on a broad range of public figures who were active in technology and engineering. As such, the exhibition continues a theme of connecting the history of technology with the events of the age that began in 1995 with an exhibition titled "I Only Served Technical Progress" and features in many aspects of the permanent exhibition.

Information about the individual biographies is available in a separate document.

Downloadable, high-resolution press images for editorial use only are available here:

http://sdtb.de/Pressemappe_Orenstein_Loewe.2141.0.html

Part of the 2013 Berlin Theme Year "Diversity Destroyed"

