The Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration considers it as its foremost task to promote research and writing in the field of migration history; special emphasis is given to the catastrophic Nazi period (1933—1945), one of the darkest chapters in the history of civilization. The pages of this Dictionary reflect the goals of the Foundation.

This Volume II documents the lives of 4,600 Hitler persecutees in the fields of the arts, sciences, and literature, and is meant to be representative of the many additional thousands worthy of being listed; it follows the German-language volume (Volume I) published in 1980, dealing with refugees active in public life, business, and selected professions. This work serves as evidence of man's inhumanity to man, and man's successful resistance and self-assertion in the face of duress, humiliation, persecution, and suffering. It testifies to the invincible human spirit which, threatened by defeat, emerges finally triumphant. It promises to become a necessary tool for scholarly thinking and analysis. It presents itself as a source book for scholars, students, and lay readers interested in the history of the Nazi period.

This Dictionary, created through an international effort over a ten-year span of extensive cooperation, includes not only racial persecutees and persons of the Jewish faith, the most prominent targets of Hitler's persecution, but also the thousands of men and women forced to flee Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia because of their political or humanitarian beliefs or activities against an evil, oppressive, and dictatorial regime. Thus the Dictionary stands for the conviction of the Foundation that a better future can only be secured if it is built on the full recognition of the errors and failures of the past, on the knowledge that persecution cannot destroy man's spirit and man's will to survive, and on the experience that determination to remain creative despite adversity can shape a new existence and uphold ideals such as scientific research, scholarship, and the arts.

The Dictionary project sponsored by this Foundation and by the Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Munich, would not have been carried out without the assistance and labor of numerous persons and institutions on both sides of the Atlantic. Joint planning between the research principals, Prof. Dr. Herbert A. Strauss of the Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration, and Dr. Werner Röder, of the Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Munich, created the continuity and methodology on which these volumes are based. Their staffs provided the professional research, writing, and editing that went into the project, assisted by professionals and volunteers in many countries who believed in the importance of the task and gave of their time and labor to make the idea come true. The names of many of the institutions and of the men and women who thus contributed to this work will be mentioned at the appropriate place in the Introductions to follow. It is nonetheless fitting to acknowledge here with gratitude the financial assistance and moral encouragement which this work has received from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Ministry for Technology and Science of the Federal Republic of Germany, and, in its later stages, from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C.

If the reception of this volume will equal the acceptance of Volume I as a significant scholarly contribution to the history of the 20th century, the dedication of time and effort, and social and financial resources appears amply justified. This work will thus serve as a perpetual testimony to a chapter in human history whose preservation, even in its darkest aspects, is imperative both as a lesson and a monitor for future generations, so that they may be spared the tragic experiences of the 20th century.

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With the approximately 8,700 biographies compiled in the volumes of the International Biographical Dictionary of Central European Emigrés 1933—1945, the Institut für Zeitgeschichte and the Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration document the fate of a group which has so far only been studied in aspects that were limited to a certain time, a certain region or certain other criteria in the research on resistance and persecution under National-Socialism. Although by its outward appearance similar to a Who's Who, i.e. to a dictionary of more or less prominent personalities, the special quality of the Biographical Dictionary lies in the selection of the group of persons and the fact that the emphasis of the biographical information is not determined primarily by rank and position within the society of a country, but by a common history of suffering — the compulsory emigration from the sphere of power of National-Socialist Germany. The data on an individual's life, career and work do not primarily document persons for their own sake. They should be read and understood as being
representative of an extremely painful process, during which about half a million people were forced to leave the political, social and cultural life of their German-speaking home countries.

The Dictionary remains "élite" insofar as here, too, the inclusion of biographees had to depend on an evaluation of their achievements. The measure of whether or not a person was deemed worthy to be included has been defined in part according to the circumstances of exile, as described in the introductions to the first two volumes. Thus, many names that are hardly known today could be saved from oblivion. The selection even encompasses the sphere of the "average," usually anonymous, social history of emigration. This is true especially for the political exiles, who make up more than half of the biographees in Volume I. One fifteenth of the political exiles should thus be recorded by name. Here, especially, not only prominence in political life was decisive, but also the individual contribution to small groups and circles which resisted the tyranny from the underground or from abroad. The often particularly tragic destinies suffered by the large "lower social classes" of the political exile could thus be treated at least by exemplification. They could naturally not be documented commensurate with their share in the whole Emigration.

Emigration from the Third Reich and the later "Grossdeutschland" has been the object of intensive contemporary documentation and research for only one and a half decades. Following earlier pioneer studies, for instance, the large socio-historical study by Hans-Albert Walter in the field of exile literature or the regional model studies on exile in England by Werner Röder and on German-speaking émigrés in Sweden by Helmut Müssener, research in the Federal Republic of Germany has been considerably improved. Thanks to the support of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft the rather poor documentary state has been remedied by locating and securing sources with the help of numerous institutes and archives. In the Institut für Zeitgeschichte a central catalogue of archival sources was established in the early seventies as the result of many years of work in domestic and foreign archives. This preliminary work became the basis for the concentrated research effort which Dr. Werner Röder was in charge of. Without these preparations the work for the Biographical Dictionary could not have begun as it did in 1972/73.

First plans for the project originated in talks Prof. Dr. Herbert A. Strauss and I had in New York at the end of 1971. The cooperation with the Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration was of greatest importance, especially as concerns emigration to the United States and Palestine. But it was also indispensable for other basic considerations: A biographical representation of the entire migration movement could not only describe the temporary emigration of political opponents of National-Socialism, which usually ended after the fall of the régime with the return to the home country. Rather, it was also of importance to document representatively the final "transfer" of people and culture through the displacement of the Jewish population, the loss for the countries of origin as well as the immigration and acculturation in the countries of settlement. With this, two central themes of emigration history are touched upon: The emigration of large parts of the Jewish population because of the "racial" policy of the Hitler régime, and exile as a form of self-assertion of the "other Germany." The biographies of "political" exiles are closely connected with the history of resistance in the Third Reich, which found its backing in groups abroad. The first volume of the Dictionary does not only offer numerous new findings and corrections to this period of German and Austrian contemporary history. It also elucidates the historical significance of exile for the spiritual and organizational continuity of an autonomous democratic tradition and the manifold connecting lines between exile and political and social reconstruction after the end of the war.

The exodus of the Jews ended the extremely fertile historical period of German-Jewish co-existence and led to a metamorphosis of its cultural tradition in the environment of the immigration countries. In the academic, literary and artistic fields, besides creating long-lasting exile-like conditions, it also led to new creative contacts, syntheses and influences — the effects of which also reverberated throughout the German-speaking post-war states. Only a future cultural history will be able to fully assess its significance. The biographies contained primarily in Volume II of this Dictionary are an important step in this direction.

The "elimination" of opponents through displacement and murder on the part of National-Socialism did not occur without historic preconditions. Although this biographical documentation cannot undo what has happened, it can certainly contribute to the dissolution of continuing prejudices. As a common project of German and Jewish historians the dictionary project has been accompanied by these memories and sufferings. They have not prevented the collaboration, but on the contrary, motivated it. The merit for the success of this cooperative effort goes to the heads of the two teams, Werner Röder and Herbert Strauss. Special thanks go to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, which has financed the largest part of the costs, to the Bundesminister für Forschung und Technologie of the Federal Republic of Germany, to the National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C., to the Research Foundation of the City University of New York, and to the Fritz-Thyssen-Stiftung which has rendered possible the appearance of the present volume by taking over the translation costs.

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