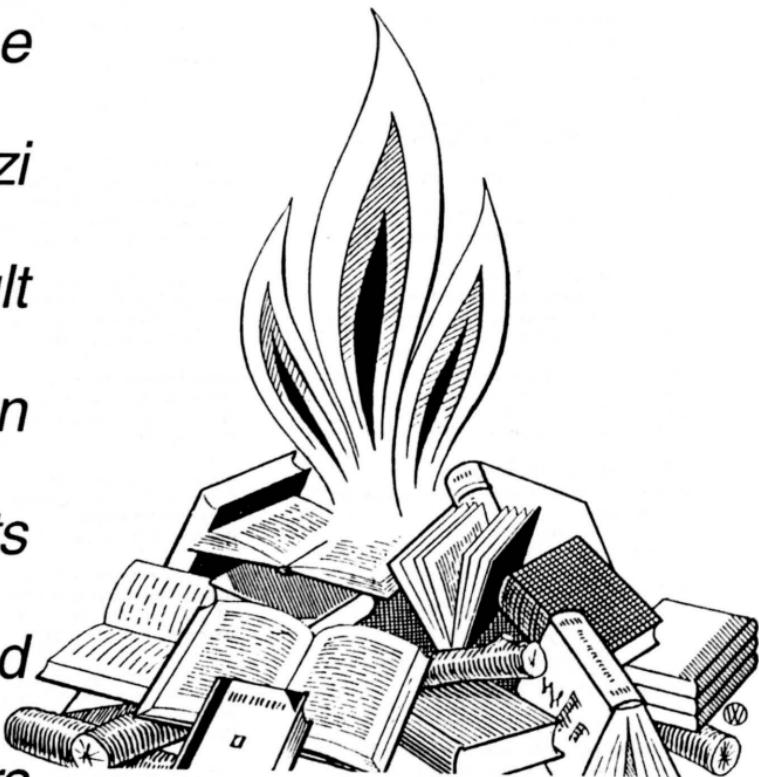


“The Un-German Spirit”:

*The
Nazi
Assault
on
Arts
and
Letters*



July 8 – November 28, 1991

**An Exhibition in the Department of Special Collections
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY**

INTRODUCTION

The period between the end of World War I and Adolf Hitler's accession to power in 1933 was an era of heady ferment for German arts and letters. In painting, architecture and design, in music and dance, in literature, theater, and film a veritable explosion of creativity burst upon the scene. But just as the freedom of the Weimar Republic fostered the full expression of artistic movements that had begun earlier, the National Socialists' rise to power unleashed forces opposed to the culture of modernism. Beginning with book burnings in May 1933 and continuing with the official exhibits of "Degenerate Art" and "German Art" in 1937 and "Degenerate Music" in 1938, the Nazi regime waged what Hitler called a *Säuberungskrieg* (cleansing war) against an ostensibly "un-German spirit" manifested in the arts by "Jews, Bolsheviks, and rootless cosmopolitans."

The Art Institute of Chicago's presentation of the recreation of the 1937 "Degenerate Art" exhibition provides an opportunity to draw together materials in the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica as well as other Library holdings related to this theme. These materials document the Nazi purge of literature and the arts and responses to it.

Installed as Minister of National Education and Propaganda on 13 March 1933, Joseph Goebbels moved quickly with an orchestrated campaign to squelch authors and books contrary to the Nazi world-view. Within weeks his office published a list of "subversive writings" to be removed from bookshops and libraries. Authors who were Jewish, leftist, or gay were conspicuously included as were books deemed morally decadent or critical of heroic figures of German history. In April the German Students' Press and Propaganda Office published twelve theses "Against the Un-German Spirit;" called upon students to cleanse university libraries as well as their own; and announced simultaneous public rallies throughout the country on 10 May.

That night in university towns across the country exhilarated students and Nazi party members cast books into bonfires to the sound of cheers and a litany of condemnations. The list of

authors whose works were burned reads like an honor roll of modern German literature and thought: Döblin, Einstein, Freud, Kafka, Mann, and so on. Indeed, at least one writer, Oskar Maria Graf, protested because his books were not included! Distinguished foreign authors considered pernicious were excoriated as well: Dreiser, Gide, Hemingway, Helen Keller.

Outside Germany, reactions were swift and scathing: 80,000 to 100,000 people attended a protest in New York; 50,000 paraded in Chicago, 20,000 in Philadelphia. Public figures and the press deplored the violation of intellectual freedom and denounced the Nazis' contempt for Germany's great cultural heritage.

Along with other repressive measures, the book burnings swelled the tide of refugees fleeing Germany. Whether in exile or in "inner emigration," the condemned authors continued what they did best, putting pen to paper to express eloquently the strength of the human will for freedom and dignity. A host of expatriate journals and publishing houses were established, disseminating the literature of anti-Nazi resistance. In Paris Dr. Alfred Kantorowicz and other emigrés collected suppressed literature in a "German Library of Burned Books."

As the Nazis consolidated their control of German culture, propaganda exhibits of "degenerate" art and music followed the book burnings. Presenting expressionist and abstract masterpieces in chaotic juxtaposition to primitive sculptures, naive paintings by mentally ill artists, and photographs of facial deformities, the "Degenerate Art" exhibition ridiculed modern art. A concurrent "Great German Art Exhibition" displayed Nazi-approved works. The "Degenerate Music" exhibit followed a similar pattern, attacking jazz, atonality, and Jewish influence on German music.

In the end, the National Socialists failed to eradicate the cultural avant-garde in Germany. The survival of the books exhibited here is a testament to their inability to silence the voices of German modernism.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CHECKLIST

- Max Adler (1873–1937)
Marx als Denker
 Berlin: J.H.W. Dietz Nachf., 1923
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Scholem Asch (1880–1957)
Die Kinder Abrahams: Novellen aus Amerika
 Berlin: Paul Zsolnay Verlag, 1931
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Otto Bauer (1881–1938)
Kapitalismus und Sozialismus nach dem Weltkrieg, vol. 1: *Rationalisierung - Febrillarialisierung*
 Wien: Wiener Volksbuchhandlung, 1931
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Walter Bauer (1904–1976)
Ein Mann zog in die Stadt: Roman
 Berlin: B. Cassirer, 1931
 Purchased with Funds Provided by Ludwig Rosenberger
- Richard Beer-Hofmann (1866–1945)
Novellen
 Berlin: Verlag von Freund & Jeckel, 1894
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Stephen Vincent Benét (1898–1943)
They Burned the Books
 New York, Toronto: Farnar & Rinehart, 1942
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Gottfried Benn (1886–1956)
Die neue Staat und die Intellektuellen
 Stuttgart: Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, 1933
 Gift of John Q. Easton
- Alexander Berkman (1870–1936)
Die Tat: Gefängnisserinnerungen eines Anarchisten
 Berlin: Verlag "Der Syndikalist," 1927
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Eduard Bernstein (1850–1932)
Ferdinand Lassalle: eine Würdigung des Lehrers und Kämpfers
 Berlin: Paul Cassirer, 1919
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Karl Blassinger (1888–1962)
Mendelssohn, Meyerbeer, Mahler: 3 Kapitel Judentum in der Musik als Schlüssel zur Mesisgeschichte des 19. Jahrhunderts
 Berlin: Bernhard Hahnfeld Verlag, 1939
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Léon Blum (1872–1950)
Obne Abrüstung kein Friede: die französische Sozialdemokratie im Kampf um die Organisation des Friedens
 Berlin: Verlag von J.H.W. Dietz Nachf., 1931
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Ber Borochov (1881–1917)
Sozialismus und Zionismus: eine Synthese
 Wien: Verlag Zukunft ("Der jüdische Arbeiter"), 1932
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956)
Mann ist Mann
 Berlin: Propyläen-Verlag, 1926
 Purchased with Funds Provided by Ludwig Rosenberger
- Max Brod (1884–1968)
Sternenbühnen: Musik- und Theatererlebnisse
 Prag: Orbis-Verlag; München: Kurt Wolff Verlag, 1923
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- I. Burrows
The Intelligent Traveler's Guide to Germany
 New York: Knight Publications, 1936
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- The Case of Civilization Against Hitlerism
 New York: Robert O. Ballou, 1934
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Hans Diebow, ed. (1896–)
Der ewige Jude: 265 Bildgedanken
 München, Berlin: Verlag Franz Eher Nachf., 1938
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Alfred Döblin (1878–1957)
Die Ermordung einer Butterblume und andere Erzählungen
 München, Leipzig: Georg Müller, 1913
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Alfred Döblin (1878–1957)
Nocturno
 Los Angeles: Pazifische Presse, 1944
 Number E.R. of a limited edition of 250 copies
 From the Library of Bertold Regensteiner
- Theodor Dreser (1871–1945)
Die "Genies"
 New York: John Lane Companys, 1915
 Gift of Milton I. D. Einstein
- Albert Einstein (1879–1955)
Vier Vorlesungen über Relativitätstheorie gehalten im Mai 1921 an der Universität Princeton
 Braunschweig: Friedrich Vieweg & Sohn, 1922
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Kurt Eisner (1867–1919)
Welt werde froh!: ein Kurt-Eisner-Buch
 Berlin: Büchergilde Gutenberg, 1929
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Arthur Eloesser (1870–1938)
Aus der großen Zeit des deutschen Theaters
 München: Eugen Rentsch Verlag, 1911
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Lion Feuchtwanger (1884–1958)
Die bäsische Herzogin, Margarete Maulasch
 Berlin: Gustav Kiepenheuer Verlag, 1931
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Lion Feuchtwanger (1884–1958)
Jud Süß: Schauspiel in drei Akten (vier Bildern)
 München: Georg Müller, 1918
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Friedrich Wilhelm Foerster (1869–1966)
Jugendseile, Jugendbewegung, Jugendziel
 Erlangen-Zürich: Rotapfel-Verlag, 1923
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Bruno Frank (1887–1945)
Sechszehntausend Francs
 Los Angeles: Pazifische Presse, 1943
 Number 159 of a limited edition of 250 copies
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Leonhard Frank (1882–1961)
Mathilde
 Los Angeles: Pazifische Presse, 1943
 Number 159 of a limited edition of 250 copies
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Leonhard Frank (1882–1961)
Die Mutter
 with 9 woodcuts by Frans Masereel
 Zürich: Max Rascher Verlag, 1919
 Number 391 of a limited edition of 1100 copies
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Leonhard Frank (1882–1961)
Die Schicksalsbrücke: drei Erzählungen
 Berlin: Ernst Rowohlt Verlag, 1925
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Elisabeth Frenzel (1915–)
Der Jude im Theater
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- München: Zentralverlag der NSDAP, 1943
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Sigmund Freud (1856–1939)
Totem und Tabu: einige Überrestimmen im Seelenleben der Wilden und der Neurotiker
 Leipzig: Internationaler Psychoanalytischer Verlag, 1922
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Sigmund Freud (1856–1939)
Vorlesungen zur Einführung in die Psychoanalyse
 Leipzig: Internationaler Psychoanalytischer Verlag, 1922
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Führer durch die Ausstellung: Der "ewige Jude"
 Berlin: Verlag für Kultur- und Wirtschaftswerbung
 Daenell & Co., [1937]
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Galerie Fischer
Gemälde und Plastiken moderner Meister aus deutschen Museen: Auktion in Luzern am 30. Juni 1939
 Luzern: Galerie Fischer, 1939
 Gift of Max Epstein
- A German Jewish Scientist (pseud.)
Why I Left Germany
 Margaret L. Goldsmith, tr.
 London: Dent & Sons, 1934
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- André Gide (1869–1951)
Philoktet, tr. by Rudolf Kassner
 Leipzig: Insel-Verlag, 1904
 Number 20 of a limited edition of 500 copies
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Ernst Glaeser (1902–1963)
Frieden
 Berlin: Gustav Kiepenheuer Verlag, 1930
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Ernst Glaeser (1902–1963)
Jahrgang 1902
 Potsdam: Gustav Kiepenheuer Verlag, 1928
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Yvan Goll (1891–1950)
Das Lächeln Voltares: ein Buch in diese Zeit
 Basel, Leipzig: Rhein-Verlag, 1921
 Number 5 of a limited edition of 300 copies
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Emil Julius Gumbel (1891–1966)
Verschwörer: Beiträge zur Geschichte und Soziologie der deutschen nationalsozialistischen Geheimverbände seit 1918
 Berlin: Der Malik-Verlag, 1924
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Anne Lyon Haight (1895–1977)
Banned Books: Informal Notes on Some Books Banned for Various Reasons at Various Times and in Various Places
 New York: R.R. Bowker Company, 1935
 One of a limited edition of 1,000 copies
 Gift of John Q. Easton
- Maximilian Harden (1861–1927)
Deutschland, Frankreich, England
 Berlin: Erich Reiss Verlag, 1923
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Werner Hegemann (1881–1936)
Fridericus, oder das Königsoffcer
 Hellerau: Jakob Hegner, 1925
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Egon Erwin Kisch (1885–1948)
Beobachtungen: Paradies Amerika
 Berlin: Erich Reiss Verlag, 1930
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Herbert A. Klein
Brains Behind Barbed Wire!
 Basel and New York: Universum, 1934
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Karl Kraus (1874–1936)
Pro domo et mundo
 Leipzig: Verlag der Schriften von Karl Kraus, Kurt Wolff, 1919
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Moses Hess (1812–1875)
Rom und Jerusalem, die letzte Nationalitätsfrage: Briefe und Noten
 Leipzig: Eduard Wengler, 1862
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Kurt Hiller (1885–1972)
§175: die Schwach des Jahrhunderts!
 Hannover: Paul Steegemann Verlag, 1922
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Magnus Hirschfeld, ed. (1868–1935)
Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen, Vol. 7
 Leipzig: Max Spohr, 1905
- Arthur Holzschner (1869–1941)
Drei Monate in Souza-Rußland
 Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, 1921
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Franz Kafka (1883–1924)
Amerika: Roman
 München: Kurt Wolff Verlag, 1927
 The Helen and Ruth Regenstein Collection of Rare Books
- Fritz Kaiser, ed.
Entartete "Kunst": Ausstellungsführer
 München: Verlag für Kultur- und Wirtschaftswerbung, [1937]
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Karl Kautsky (1854–1938)
Terrorismus und Kommunismus: ein Beitrag zur Naturgeschichte der Revolution
 Berlin: Verlag Neues Vaterland, 1919
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Helen Keller (1880–1968)
Optimism: My Key of Life
 New York: T. Y. Crowell, 1903
 From the Library of Bessie Louise Pierce
- Alfred Kerr (1867–1948)
Es sei wie es wolle, Es war doch so schön!
 Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, 1928
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Alfred Kerr (1867–1948)
Russische Filmkunst
 Berlin-Charlottenburg: Ernst Pollak Verlag, 1927
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Klabund [pseud. of Alfred Henschke] (1890–1928)
Der Kreidekratz
 Berlin: J. M. Spaeth Verlag, 1925
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Erika Mann (1905–1969)
School for Barbarians
 New York: Modern Age Books, 1938
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Heinrich Mann (1871–1950)
Der Hass: deutsche Zeitgeschichte
 Amsterdam: Querklo Verlag, 1933
 Purchased with Funds Provided by Ludwig Rosenberger
- Klaus Mann (1906–1949)
Abenteuer Novellen
 Leipzig: Verlag von Philipp Reclam Jun., 1929
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Thomas Mann (1875–1955)
Thamar
 Los Angeles: Pazifische Presse, 1942
 Number 2A of a limited edition of 150 copies signed by the author
- Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961)
A Farewell to Arms
 New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1929
 In Memory of Mary Clark & Robert L. McKeague
- Ernst Krenek (1900–)
Jonny spielt auf: Oper in zwei Teilen, op. 45
 Wien, Leipzig: Universal-Edition, 1926
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Franz Mehring (1846–1919)
Zur Geschichte der Philologie
 Berlin: Soziologische Verlagsanstalt, 1931
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Walter Mehring (1896–1981)
Arche Noah S.O.S.: neues tröstliches Liederbuch
 Berlin: S. Fischer, 1931
 Purchased with Funds Provided by Ludwig Rosenberger
- Gustav Meyrink (1868–1919)
Der Göklein: ein Roman
 Leipzig: Kurt Wolff Verlag, 1915
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Robert Musil (1880–1942)
Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften: Roman, vol. 1
 Berlin: Ernst Rowohlt Verlag, 1930
 The Helen and Ruth Regenstein Collection of Rare Books
- Alfred Neumann (1895–1952)
Götterwerk des Lebens
 Los Angeles: Pazifische Presse, 1943
 Number 159 of a limited edition of 250 copies
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Robert Neumann (1897–1975)
Die Pest von Lianora
 Stuttgart: J. Engelhorns Nachf., 1927
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Charles-Louis Philippe (1874–1909)
Babu vom Montparnasse
 with 20 woodcuts by Frans Masereel
 München: Kurt Wolff Verlag, 1920
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Theodor Plivier (1892–1955)
Des Kaisers Kulis: Roman der deutschen Kriegsflotte
 Berlin: Malit Verlag, 1930
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Alfred Polgar (1873–1955)
Icb bin Zeuge
 Berlin: Ernst Rowohlt Verlag, 1928
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Walter Rathenau (1867–1922)
Zur Kritik der Zeit
 Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, 1912
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Erich Maria Remarque (1898–1970)
Im Westen nichts Neues
 Berlin: Propyläen-Verlag, 1929
 The Earl J. Hamilton Collection in the History of Economics
- Erich Maria Remarque (1898–1970)
Der Weg Zurück
 Berlin: Propyläen-Verlag, 1931
 Gift of John Q. Easton

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CHECKLIST—CONT.

- Joachim Ringelnatz (1883–1934)
Allerdings: Gedichte
 Berlin: Ernst Rowohlt Verlag, 1928
 From the Library of Bertold Regensteiner
- Christa Maria Rock (1896–) and Hans Brückner
Das musikalische Judentum-ABC
 München: Hans Brückner Verlag, [ca. 1935]
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Joseph Roth (1894–1939)
Rechts und Links: Roman
 Berlin: Gustav Kiepenheuer, 1929
 Purchased with Funds Provided by Ludwig Rosenberger
- Arno Schirokauer (1899–1954)
Lassalle: die Macht der Illusion, die Illusion der Macht
 Leipzig: Paul List Verlag, 1928
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Werner Schlegel (1900–)
Dichter auf dem Scheiterhaufen
 Berlin: Verlag für Kulturpolitik, 1934
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Arthur Schnitzler (1862–1931)
Die Schwestern, oder Casanova in Spa: ein Lustspiel in Versen
 Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, 1919
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Schutzenverein deutscher Schriftsteller
Deutsch für Deutsche
 Leipzig: Verlag für Kunst und Wissenschaft (false imprint), [1935?]
 Gift of Ludwig Rosenberger
- Robert Seitz (1891–1938) and Heinz Zucker, eds.
Um uns die Stadt: eine Anthologie neuer Grossstadtdichtung [sic!]
 Berlin: Sieben-Stäbe-Verlag, 1931
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Upton Sinclair (1878–1968)
King Midas: a Romance
 New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls, 1901
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Leonard Stein, ed. (1887–1973)
The Persecution of the Jews in Germany: Supplementary Bulletin, no. 2
 London: Joint Foreign Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Anglo-Jewish Association, 1933
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Carl Sternheim (1878–1942)
Vier Novellen: neue Folge der Chronik vom Beginn des zwanzigsten Jahrhunderts
 with 12 lithographs by Michl Fingesten
 Berlin: Verlag Heinrich Hochstift, 1918
 From the Library of Bertold Regensteiner
- Bertha von Suttner (1843–1914)
Der Kampf um die Vermeidung des Weltkrieges, vol. 1
 Zürich: Art. Institut Orell Füssli
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Adrienne Thomas (1897–1980)
Die Katrin wird Soldat ein Roman aus Elsaß-Lothringen
 Berlin: Propyläen-Verlag, 1930
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Ernst Toller
 "Open Letter to Herr Goebbels"
Braunbuch über Reichstagsbrand und Hitlerterror
 Basel: Universum-Bücherei, 1933
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Friedrich Torberg [pseud. of Friedrich Kantor-Berg] (1908–1979)
Mein ist die Rache
 Los Angeles: Pazifische Presse, 1943
 Number 139 of a limited edition of 150 copies signed by the author
 Gift of John Q. Easton
- Peter Panter [pseud. of Kurt Tucholsky] (1890–1935)
Ein Pyramidenbuch
 Berlin: Verlag der Schmiede, 1927
 Purchased with Funds Provided by Ludwig Rosenberger
- The Voice of Britain...on Hitlerism*
 London: McCorquodale, 1933
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Jakob Wassermann (1873–1934)
Mein Weg als Deutscher und Jude
 Berlin: S. Fischer Verlag, 1922
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Hans Weinberger and Mimi Weinberger, eds.
Kinderland 1930: das Jahrbuch für Arbeiterkinder in Stadt und Land
 Berlin: Vorwärts Buchdruckerei und Verlagsanstalt, [1930]
 Purchased with Funds Provided by Ludwig Rosenberger
- Franz Werfel (1890–1945)
Nicht der Mörder, der Ermonde ist schuldig: eine Novelle
 München: Kurt Wolff Verlag, 1920
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Franz Werfel (1890–1945)
Die wahre Geschichte vom wiederhergestellten Kreuz
 Los Angeles: Pazifische Presse, 1942
 Number 159 of a limited edition of 250 copies
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- James Waterman Wise (1901–1983)
Swastika: The Nazi Terror
 New York: Harrison Smith and Robert Haas, 1933
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Theodor Wolff (1868–1943)
Das Vorspiel
 München: Verlag für Kulturpolitik, 1925
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Zeitschrift für Musik: Monatsschrift für eine geistige Erneuerung der deutschen Musik*
 Vol. 105, No. 7 (July 1938)
 Regensburg: Gustav Bosse Verlag, 1938
 Purchase of the Library's General Book Fund
- Arnold Zweig (1887–1968)
Caliban, oder Politik und Leidenschaft
 Potsdam: Gustav Kiepenheuer Verlag, 1927
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Arnold Zweig (1887–1968)
Die Sendung Samaels: jüdische Tragödie in fünf Aufzügen
 München: Kurt Wolff Verlag, 1920
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library
- Stefan Zweig (1881–1942)
Jeremias: eine dramatische Dichtung in neun Bildern
 Leipzig: Insel-Verlag, 1922
 Ludwig Rosenberger Library

ref
Z 881

C 537

1961

V.23 c.103

Archiv

4
ICU