



# The Rosenzweig Letters: A Journey into the German-Jewish Tragedy

## Introduction

The centerpiece of this web-site is formed by translations of 21 letters of which 18 were written to or by the Rosenzweigs during the brief time-span between February 26, 1942 and June 30, 1943 in the midst of World War II. To give a little background for the war time letters, we have included three others from Eric Yondorf's family files.

Sophie Guckenheimer's letter to her children of January 1898 sets the tone of family solidarity which was so typical for Jewish as well as other close-knit families of the period. Mathilde Rosenzweig was one of Sophie's daughters. **Stephan Jondorf**, oldest son of Pauline Jondorf, was a businessman keenly aware of the post-World War I political conditions in Germany in 1923 which he describes in his letter to a relative in Chicago. Finally **Pauline Jondorf** on a short vacation trip to Czechoslovakia in 1933 writes her uncensored views on Nazi Germany to her brother in Chicago.

Ludwig and Mathilde had lived in Glarus, Switzerland, since June 19, 1940. Postal service, albeit at very irregular intervals, was available to most parts of the war-torn world. Many people are mentioned in these letters, friends and relatives for the most part. Their names will not have much meaning to the reader of today. But their final fates, which we have indicated in square brackets wherever verifiable, speak louder than words about the dreadful uncertainties and horrors of the Holocaust era. The letters also bear witness to the brave efforts of those who had been able to leave Germany at establishing a new existence in another country.

A poignant final note: **Fritz Guckenheimer** died on April 20, 1943 in La Paz at the age of 68 of natural causes, probably aggravated by hard work at a very high altitude. The Rosenzweigs's last letter to him was sent on June 30, 1943! We do not know when they finally learned of Fritz's passing. Ludwig Rosenzweig died in Glarus on October 29, 1943 at the age of 83.

*Mr. Eric G. Yondorf &rijo*

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## The Correspondents and Additional Texts

### **Sophie Guckenheimer\***

- Biography
- Sophie Guckenheimer to her children (1.26.1898)

### **Stephan Jondorf\***

- Biography
- Stephan Jondorf to “Ralph” (12.11.1923)

### **Pauline Jondorf\***

- Biography
- Pauline Jondorf to her brother in Chicago (6.9.1933)

### **Fritz Guckenheimer\***

- Biography
- Fritz Guckenheimer to the Rosenzweigs (2.26.1942)
- Ludwig and Mathilde Rosenzweig to Fritz Guckenheimer (4.20.1942)
- Fritz Guckenheimer to the Rosenzweigs (5.26.1942)
- Ludwig and Mathilde Rosenzweig to Fritz Guckenheimer (8.26.1942)
- Fritz Guckenheimer to the Rosenzweigs (1.17.1943)
- Ludwig and Mathilde Rosenzweig to Fritz Guckenheimer (6.29./30.1943)

### **Marie Guldmann\***

- Biography
- Marie Guldmann to Mathilde Rosenzweig (7.8.1942) and reply
- Marie Guldmann to Mathilde Rosenzweig (8.28.1942) and reply

### **Stephan Guckenheimer\***

- Biography
- Stephan Guckenheimer to the Rosenzweigs (7.13.1942)
- Stephan Guckenheimer to the Rosenzweigs (7.15.1942)
- Ludwig Rosenzweig to Stephan Guckenheimer (7.24.1942)
- Stephan Guckenheimer to the Rosenzweigs (7.31.1942)

- Ludwig and Mathilde Rosenzweig to Stephan Guckenheimer (8.13.1942)
- Stephan Guckenheimer to the Rosenzweigs (8.18.1942)
- Ludwig and Mathilde Rosenzweig to Stephan Guckenheimer (8.27.1942)
- Stephan Guckenheimer to the Rosenzweigs (9.2.1942)

**[Guckenheimer Family Tree\\*](#)**

**[Yondorf Family Tree\\*](#)**

**[Resume by Fred Yondorf \(formerly Fritz Jondorf; 1955\)\\*](#)**

**[Obituary for Dr. Walter F. Yondorf \(1980\)\\*](#)**

**[Biography of Luzie \(Lucy\) Reizenstein\\*](#)**

**[Liesel and Sophie \(Gogo\) Guckenheimer's Emigration to Australia\\*](#)**

**[The Concentration Camps mentioned in the letters\\*](#)**

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