

Gustav Ernst Löwensohn, Fürth

(5.5.1883 in Fürth - declared dead 1945 in Auschwitz)

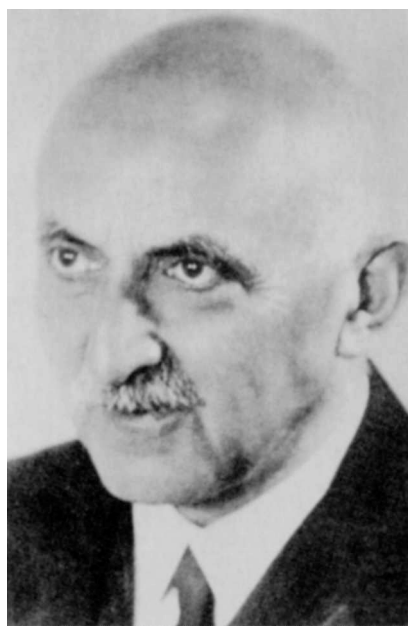
The Löwensohn family

According to its genealogical tree, the Löwensohn family had been living in Bavaria since the 18th century.

Early years

Gustav Löwensohn was born in Fürth in Bavaria on 5 May 1883. His mother was Rosa, née Stockheim (1864-1934), his father Theodor Löwensohn (1853-1932). Bernhard Löwensohn, whose name was given to a street in Fürth-West, was his uncle.

Gustav finished the Heinrich-Schliemann-Gymnasium (high school). During the war 1914 - 1918 he was active as an interpreter.



(photo: private)

Professional life

In 1919 he entered the family business, the company G. Löwensohn. He was an editor and a printer, commercial counselor (*Kommerzienrat* in German), brother of Robert Löwensohn, third generation owners of the *Edition G. Löwensohn - Children's Books, Fürth*.

Before the Nazi-period he was president of his professional corporation. As such he succeeded in 1935 to have the Nazi-law, forbidding Jews to print and / or edit, postponed for another two years. Thus the company G. Löwensohn was sold only end of 1937.

Emigration, deportation and murder

On the 31.12.1937 he emigrated with his family to the Netherlands, later to Belgium. Riding in Brussels on a tram, which was not allowed for Jews, he was arrested and deported on 31 July 1943 from Belgium to Auschwitz, where he lost his life.

His character, intellectual and spiritual interests

Gustav Löwensohn was a particularly kind man and took a sincere interest in other people's problems. Therefore he was often asked for his advice.

He was very well-read and had a profound knowledge of Goethe's works. Gustav Löwensohn used to organize cultural lectures in Fürth and also invited the lecturers to his home, among others Jakob Wassermann (1873 - 1933) and Graf Hermann von Keyserling (1880 - 1946).

He was also seriously interested in philosophy. Besides that he was a freemason.

His religious needs could not be satisfied in his parents' house. His father Theodor - thriving for equality-of-rights of the Jews in Bavaria and their assimilation - had rejected the Jewish ways and customs and every religious practice. Gustav was therefore attracted by the surrounding religion, Christianity, but neither he nor anybody of his family ever converted.

His wife and children

With his wife Emmy, daughter of the very popular family-doctor Dr. Mannheimer, Gustav lived in a villa with a large garden in the Forsthausstraße (Dambach district of Fürth). Emmy, a good-looking and extremely efficient lady, did a lot of social work.

Gustav and Emmy had two daughters, Lilli and Dora. After the war Emmy emigrated to the USA. Dora with husband Walter Kohn and two children, Annette and Herbert, accompanied her mother. Lilli died in London, during the Blitz (1941).

Today, all of Gustav Löwensohn's descendants live in the U.S.A.

22 February 2002

Anne-Marie Löwensohn

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