

Final Word

Dear true friends,

This book is dedicated to your forefathers who were humiliated, deprived of their professional life and finally – were deported and arrested in the most horrid death camps in human history.

The horrors came like a thunder (we say in Hebrew). March 12th 1938. Anschluss . All at once, new "rules" and restrictions were enacted against all Jews, creating chaos and confusion. Lawyers who successfully devoted their lives to defending human rights, were deprived of all rights and declared outlawed for the mere reason of lack of Aryan origin, while not one fellow Austrian or colleague – stood up to defend them.

The 1914 lawyers whose life stories were compiled in this book were not alone. They had families – parents, spouses and children. Each of them had a large circle of friends. They were an important part of the community and influenced social and cultural life in Austria.

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Robert Kahn, a distinguished lawyer , lived and worked in Vienna. His family's tree goes back to 16th century Germany. Kahn managed to escape in July 1938 to the United States. There, he chose stopped practicing law to become an Historian.

His disappointment of the legal system in Austria was expressed as follows: "Every person who has witnessed how a hundred years of cultural life were thrown into oblivion would refuse to study in any law classes anymore." ¹

The famous and influential lawyer, who was also the head of the Jewish community in Vienna, Dr. Desider Friedman, was arrested on March 18th 1938 and deported to the Dachau concentration camp.

During the short time that he was freed from imprisonment, he refused to collaborate with Eichmann in preparing lists of Jews to be deported. Dr. Desider Friedman was then deported to Auschwitz and murdered there.

¹ The Jewish Middle Class in Vienna in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries by Erika Weinzierl, Working Paper 01-1, October 2003; Winters "Das Werden eines Historikers", 2. R. Kann,

Dr. Friedman, an exemplary lawyer, left a lot of information regarding his personal as well as his professional life. The city council of Vienna named a square after him. With regard to many other lawyers, we had only very basic details, such as name and date of birth. We needed much research in order to portray their histories as published in this book. Even here in this book, in spite of extensive research some are mentioned with only basic details. About Dr. Oskar Gold we have only his office address, date of birth and date of being promoted with a Ph.D. He is one of many

The encountering of the Federal Bar Association in Austria with the past through the leadership its President Dr. Gerhard Ben-Ibler is exemplary. It is not taken for granted and to this day not done in countries where local population collaborated with Nazi occupation forces. Except for Germany and Austria there is very little perpetuation of memory of Jewish lawyers who were victims of the Nazi regime.

The fact that a society was established in Austria to perform research on the deposition of its Jewish lawyers during the years 1938-1945, is an important landmark.

We hope that this society will continue its important task and gather more information concerning the outstanding contribution of Jewish lawyers to cultural life as well as more details concerning their personal fate.

We congratulate those who worked hard to unravel the multiple facts and details which make this book so valuable and unique. First and foremost, the president of the Advocaten 38 society, Dr. Alix Frank-Thomasser, and Mrs. Barbara Sauer, who diligently searched many archives and uncovered relevant information.

We thank them from the bottom of our heart for allowing us to do our share and partake at this presentation.

With warm feelings of friendship and brotherhood, with respect and awe, we hold onto this memorial book.