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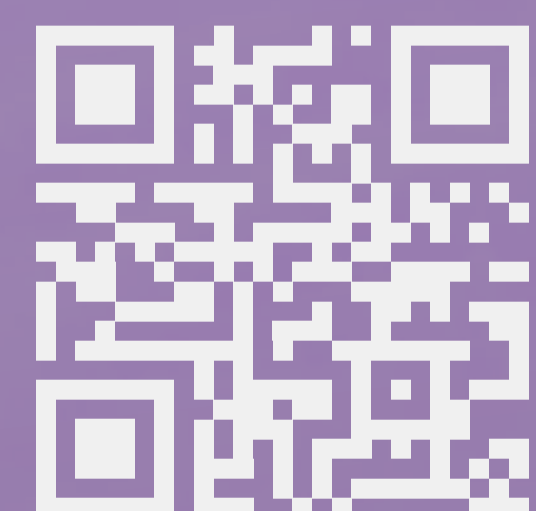
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Chutzpah?

MARKO-FEINGOLD-STEG

EXHIBITION

In Austrian German, there are many loanwords from Yiddish and Hebrew. One of them is CHUTZPAH. The word can be used negatively to mean cheekiness or audacity, but, as in this context, also positively: for being sharp-witted, a little impudent, always charmingly provocative, and bold.



This bridge was named after Holocaust survivor Marko Feingold (1913–2019), who led Salzburg's Jewish community for decades. He had chutzpah: he was ironic, fearless towards authority, and disarming with his repertoire of Viennese wit.

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STADT : SALZBURG



SALZBURG
MUSEUM

Bluffing



© Theater in der Josefstadt

Leo Reuss

Because of his Jewish background, actor Leo Reuss could no longer perform in Nazi Germany. His attempts in still-unoccupied Austria also failed. Reuss came up with an idea: he posed as a mountain farmer who wanted to become an actor. With blond hair, he excelled in “Fräulein Else” in 1936. The press – even antisemitic outlets – celebrated the “natural talent from the countryside”. When Reuss revealed his true identity, he was no longer engaged. He emigrated to the USA.

Showing the Flag



Martin Friedländer, flag with Star of David, Berlin, September 1935, Jewish Museum Berlin, donation from Martin Friedländer, photo: Jens Ziehe

Martin Friedländer

In protest against the Nazi racial laws of 15 September 1935, Martin Friedländer (1906–c. 2000) hung a self-designed flag out of his Berlin flat window two weeks later, on the Jewish New Year. He combined the Star of David with the traditional blue and white colours of Zionism to express his Jewish self-confidence as an equal citizen. He managed to escape to Australia in 1939.

Taking Risks

Dorothea Neff

At the end of 1941, Lilly Wolff, the Jewish friend of actress Dorothea Neff, was due to be deported from Vienna. Dorothea showed great courage and hid Lilly in her flat for years. When Lilly had to go to hospital in 1944, she used Dorothea Neff's papers, as that was only her stage name – her real name was Dorothea Antonie Schmid. No one suspected anything, although it was extremely dangerous. Dorothea Neff played the role of her life to ensure her partner's survival.



Keeping Calm



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Renée Wiener

Renée (born Renate Kurz) had to flee Vienna in 1938 and later became involved in resistance against National Socialism in France. One of her tasks was transporting weapons by train. “A German officer came along and politely insisted on carrying my suitcase! I thought I would die! I trudged along ahead of him, sweating with fear, while he carried the suitcase quite a long way, even lifted it onto the train for me, and asked what on earth was so heavy inside.”



Disguising



© Collection Mélanie Volle-Berger

Mélanie Berger - Volle

Mélanie Berger-Volle became involved in resistance against the Nazi regime at an early age and had to flee Austria partly due to her Jewish background. Disguised as a man, the 16-year-old reached France in 1938. She joined the Resistance but was arrested. Seriously ill, she organised a group of friends disguised as the Gestapo, who freed her from the prison hospital in a scene worthy of a film. Mélanie Berger-Volle intends to change the world as a contemporary witness for the rest of her life.



Appearing Harmless

Équipe Pur Sang

A group of six girl scouts refused to accept Nazi terror after the occupation of Alsace. They searched for escape routes to help endangered people reach unoccupied France or Switzerland. The meeting point for refugees was the Église Saint-Jean in Strasbourg. Disguised as harmless hiking groups, the courageous young women guided them across the mountains to the borders. In February 1942, the group was discovered, followed by a show trial and imprisonment in camps.



False Identities



© National Archives and Records Administration, Washington

Operation Greenup

In 1945, Operation Greenup brought a team of American intelligence agents to Tyrol: the Jewish refugees Fred Mayer and Hans Wijnberg, and the Tyrolean Wehrmacht deserter Franz Weber. After parachuting into the Stubai Alps, they operated partly disguised as Nazis and partly under false identities, sending detailed reports on troop movements from the city of Innsbruck. With the support of Maria Hörtnagl, Luise Weber, and Anni Niederkircher, they aimed to enable the peaceful surrender of Innsbruck to the Allies.



Not with Me



Photograph: Harry Weber, dated 1960. © Austrian National Library, Vienna, Image Archive (inventory number HW1960_1152_4_2_12)

Courageous Caretaker

Anette R. was persecuted as a Jew during National Socialism and fled. Later, when showing Vienna to her American husband, she visited her former home. The elderly caretaker, Mrs Hoffmann, was cleaning. “She embraced me and called me ‘my little Anni’ (although I was already a mother of four children at the time).” Anette R. especially remembered the caretaker’s courage: “Whenever the SS or the Gestapo came to the building to ask whether Jews lived there, she always said: ‘No.’”

Hoaxed

Kobuk

Helmut Qualtinger invented the character “Kobuk” as a deliberate media hoax. During a visit to the PEN Club, he stole official letterhead and announced to Austrian media the arrival of the famous “Eskimo poet” Kobuk. The supposed author of works such as “Lonely Igloo” and “Heia Musch Musch” arrived at Vienna’s Westbahnhof on 3 July 1951. In front of numerous journalists and photographers, Qualtinger appeared in a fur coat and, when asked how he liked Vienna, replied: “It’s hot!”

Quick-witted



© Private archive of Hanna Feingold

Marko Feingold

In 2014, a young man from Salzburg was held in pre-trial detention for damaging Stolpersteine (memorial stones). In a letter to Feingold, chairman of the Jewish Community of Salzburg, the 21-year-old apologised. The more than 100-year-old Holocaust survivor visited him in prison. The young man was not very talkative. Feingold asked how the food in prison was. It was not good, he replied. Feingold responded in his typical way: in the concentration camp, there had been above all too little food to survive.



Rebelling



© National Museum of American Jewish Military History

August Bondi

August (Anschel) Bondi fought in the 1848 revolution in Vienna but fled to the USA after its failure. There, he joined the Free-Soil Settlers in Kansas and took part in violent conflicts against supporters of slavery. Later, he served on the Union side in the American Civil War. In his autobiography, he explained his commitment: “As a Jew, I am obliged to support institutions that enable all people to live in dignity.”