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978-0-521-44063-9 - *A Past Renewed: A Catalog of German-Speaking Refugee Historians in the United States After 1933*

Catherine Epstein

Frontmatter

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*A Past Renewed* is a catalog of the German-speaking refugee historians who emigrated from Nazi Germany to the United States after 1933. The volume includes biographical information on the lives of eighty-eight historians, as well as bibliographies of their books and articles.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

Edited by Hartmut Lehmann  
with the assistance of Kenneth F. Ledford

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# *A Past Renewed*

A CATALOG OF GERMAN-SPEAKING REFUGEE HISTORIANS  
IN THE UNITED STATES AFTER 1933

CATHERINE EPSTEIN

GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

*Washington, D.C.*



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## PREFACE

OF THE HUNDREDS OF SCHOLARS who were forced into exile by the Nazis, a fair number were historians seeking refuge in the United States. It seemed fitting, therefore, to discuss the plight and the impact of German-speaking refugee historians in the United States at the German Historical Institute's first conference, held in 1988, a year after the Institute's founding. The papers presented at this conference have since been published in a volume entitled *An Interrupted Past*, edited by James J. Sheehan and myself.

At the time of the conference, not all the names of the historians who had to leave Germany in 1933 and thereafter were known. We were, of course, familiar with the refugee scholars who had risen to academic prominence in the United States, but we knew little about those who had to discontinue their careers. Nor did we have much information on those who turned to history because they were unable to make a living in such fields as law or economics, in which they had originally been trained.

As part of the Institute's research program on the emigration of the 1930s, Catherine Epstein undertook to compile a comprehensive catalog that would include the names of all the refugee historians and the pertinent information about them. It goes without saying that there were cases in which it was not easy to decide whether or not to include a name, a career, a destiny. Exile produced amazing, and sometimes sad, career patterns. Epstein has struggled with these questions, just as she has labored hard to dig up information even when none seemed available. As a result, she has produced a most valuable tool for further studies. It would be the greatest reward for her splendid effort if this catalog helped to inspire more research on the refugee historians.

It is a pleasant duty to thank her for her work, just as I would like to thank Kenneth Ledford, Janine Micunek, and Cambridge University Press for their very constructive help in the production of this book.

December 1992  
Washington, D.C.

Hartmut Lehmann