

## Fredi Holzapfel

[Go to personal file](#)

### Contradictory biographical accounts

Fredi Holzapfel was born in Holzminden (Germany) on 11 November 1911, the son of David Holzapfel (Zierenberg, 4 August 1879) and Elsbeth Kornberg (Holzminden, 5 January 1884). His parents moved from Holzminden to Berlin, and were deported to Auschwitz on 19 February 1943 on the 29th transport to the east, together with 1,003 other men and women. Fredi Holzapfel, according to the accounts assembled in the family genealogy,<sup>1</sup> had been living for a long time in Franconia and had emigrated to Palestine in 1936, returning to Holzminden in 1950, where he lived until his death on 17 September 2001, he had married Karla, with whom he had three children.

Link to other connected  
Lives on the move:

### University in Italy and his expulsion as a German Jew from his «temporary refuge»

In fact, according to records from the Universities of Bologna and Siena, Fredi had completed a first year course at Würzburg; having emigrated to Italy, in the academic year 1933-34 he enrolled as a medical student at the University of Pisa and then moved to Bologna, registering lastly at Siena on 20 December 1937 (student number 2074)<sup>2</sup>. On 20 October 1938 he applied for the viva on his dissertation «Sulle infiammazioni sierose dei gangli linfatici», [Serous inflammations in the lymphatic ganglia] in the Institute for Anatomical Pathology, but he became ill, and after being admitted to hospital was operated on for appendicitis. Having recovered, it was not until December 1938 that he was able to seek readmission so that he could

1 Family genealogy in <<https://jinh.lima-city.de>> (accessed 4 April 2019). Details on the deportation of his parents in *The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names*, by name <<https://yvng.yadvashem.org>> (accessed 20 January 2020).

2 Cfr ASUSi, *Medicina e chirurgia*, b. 111, f. «Holzapfel Fredi». Documentation for the year completed at Pisa and the transfer certificate from the university, dated 6 December 1934, in ASUBo, *Archivio studenti, Medicina e chirurgia*, f. 9748, «Holzapfel Fredy».

graduate in the first convenient session in 1939, but the National Ministry of Education gave a negative reply, in accordance with the regulations on foreign Jews. We have no other information up to 1950, when from his home town in Germany Fredi applied to the University of Siena for the return of his documents.

### Archive sources

- ASUBo, *Archivio studenti, Medicina e chirurgia*, f. 9748, «Holzapfel Fredy».
- ASUSi, *Medicina e chirurgia*, b. 111, f. «Holzapfel Fredi».
- Family genealogy in <<https://jinh.lima-city.de>>.

### Bibliography

- Liesel Tilles (Elisabeth Holzapfel), *Stories from my Life. Memoir Pieces and Fiction*, s.l., Words on Paper, 2003.

Simone Duranti

Translated by Tom Dawkes

#### Cite as:

Simone Duranti, *Fredi Holzapfel*, in  
Patrizia Guarnieri, *Intellectuals Displaced from Fascist Italy. Migrants,  
Exiles and Refugees Fleeing for Political and Racial Reasons*,  
Firenze, Firenze University Press, 2019-  
<<http://intellettualinfuga.fupress.com/en>>  
e-ISBN: 978-88-6453-872-3  
© 2019- Author(s)  
Open Access article published under license CC BY-NC-ND 4.0.

Date of publication: 1 March 2020.