

## Klaus Juliusburger

[Go to personal file](#)

He emigrated to Basel and then to Florence to study Italian literature. In 1939, he took refuge in Switzerland, while his parents stayed in Berlin and were eventually deported to Terezin. After the war, he managed to graduate from the University of Freiburg and tried to start a new life in New York. However, his life seems marked by trauma and the loss of a family support network.

[Link to other connected Lives on the move:](#)

### From Berlin to Florence

Klaus Juliusburger was born in Berlin on 29 May 1915. His parents were Paul and Margarete Treuenfels<sup>1</sup>. His father, an engineer from Wrocław, was probably a relative of Otto Juliusburger (1867-1952), a famous psychiatrist and sexologist who eventually emigrated to New York in 1941.

Klaus graduated in 1935 at the Berlin Französisches Gymnasium and left the *Reich*. After a brief stop in Geneva, he enrolled in the Faculty of Literature at the University of Basel and attended courses in classical philology and archaeology. However, he decided to continue his studies in Florence, where he moved for the academic year 1936-37. Following the Italian laws, his enrolment request had been examined by the Italian consulate in Berlin, which gave him its consent<sup>2</sup>.

In September 1938, he renounced his studies, as he belonged to the «Jewish race». In the following weeks, the laws promulgated by the Italian state would

---

<sup>1</sup> ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Juliusburger Klaus», application to the rector, 3 November 1936.

<sup>2</sup> Ivi, Consolato generale d'Italia in Berlin to Università di Firenze, 12 November 1936. On the *circolare* of 20 November 1933 n. 18596, *Ammissione studenti stranieri, Riconoscimento di titoli accademici esteri*, on the following laws and their application in the various universities, cf. Elisa Signori, *Una peregrinatio academica in età contemporanea. Gli studenti ebrei stranieri nelle università italiane tra le due guerre*, «Annali di storia delle Università italiane», 4, 2000, pp. 139-162.

force the expulsion of all German students from Italian universities<sup>3</sup>.

### Survive trauma

Klaus decided to return to Switzerland, where he could count on a support network. His older brother, an engineer, Hans Ludwig (1905-1947), managed to emigrate to the United Kingdom with his wife and children but would die soon after, probably in 1947<sup>4</sup>. His parents instead remained in Berlin. On 29 May 1943, they were deported to Terezin, where they died in December of the same year<sup>5</sup>.

After the war, Klaus resumed his studies at the University of Freiburg, where he graduated in 1948 with a thesis titled: «L'antichità in ispecie ellenica in Giacomo Leopardi» [Antiquity, especially Hellenic, in the works of Giacomo Leopardi], which was later published<sup>6</sup>.

In April 1949, he left Southampton and reached New York, declaring that his last place of residence was Geneva, and that he worked as a trader<sup>7</sup>. His voyage and the first months of his stay in the US were financed by the Reparation Fund of the International Refugees Organisation, founded in 1946 by the UN in Geneva<sup>8</sup>. After a few months, Elisabeth Bertschi, director of the

<sup>3</sup> ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Juliusburger Klaus», application for withdrawal from studies, 19 September 1938. On the expulsion of German students, cf. the *circolare* of the Ministry of Education of 6 October 1938, no. 6408. On the *circolari applicative* following the racial laws relating to foreign students, see: Francesca Cavarocchi, *Provenienze e destini degli studenti ebrei stranieri iscritti all'Università di Firenze nel 1938*, in Patrizia Guarnieri (a cura di), *L'emigrazione intellettuale dall'Italia fascista e dalle leggi razziali. Studenti e studiosi ebrei dell'università di Firenze in fuga all'estero*, Florence, Firenze University Press, 2019, pp. 21-39.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. The personal page: <<https://www.ancestry.com>> (access with registration 28 May 2022).

<sup>5</sup> *The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, ad nomen* <<https://yvng.yadvashem.org>> (accessed 28 May 2022).

<sup>6</sup> K. Juliusburger, *L'antichità in ispecie ellenica in Giacomo Leopardi. Tesi di dissertazione presentata all'Università di Friburgo per ottenere il titolo di dottore da Klaus Juliusburger*, Berne, Tipografia F. Graf-Lehmann, 1949.

<sup>7</sup> Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv, *Auswanderungsamt und Auswanderungsbüro. Überseeische Auswanderungen aus der Schweiz, 1910-1953*, E2175-2, Band 65, *ad nomen*; The National Archives, Kew, UK, *Board of Trade, Commercial and Statistical Department and Successors, Outwards Passenger Lists*, Reference no. BT27-232210. Both documents are available online: <<https://www.ancestry.com>> (access with registration 28 May 2022). Juliusburger embarked on the Washington on 22 April 1949, claiming he was a stateless person and a physician, while in the full module he filled in Switzerland he claimed to be a trader.

<sup>8</sup> Arolsen Archives, *Registrierungen und Akten von Displaced Persons, Kindern und Vermissten*,

Section Suisse of the Service Social International, wrote to a functionary of the Reparation Fund to have Klaus' case re-examined<sup>9</sup>. Klaus, in fact, had been under psychiatric treatment for a few months, and the social service had managed to find a private structure where he could be hospitalised for free in New York. However, Karl refused, claiming he only needed a period of rest before starting to look for a job. At this point, he was forcibly hospitalised in a public structure, making it urgent to find some money for him, as the family that had provided the *affidavit* did not want to pay the medical bills. In the following months, some funding came from Geneva, given the particularly difficult conditions in which their beneficiary was<sup>10</sup>.

It is unclear when Klaus was dismissed from the psychiatric hospital. In September 1954, he returned to Germany, perhaps to stay there or as a new stop of a life lived between two continents<sup>11</sup>.

### Main publications

- K. Juliusburger, *L'antichità in ispecie ellenica in Giacomo Leopardi*, Berne, Tipografia F. Graf-Lehmann, 1949.

### Archival sources

- ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Juliusburger Klaus».
- Arolsen Archives, *Registrierungen und Akten von Displaced Persons*,

---

*Unterstützungsprogramme unterschiedlicher Organisationen, IRO «Care and Maintenance» Programm, CM/1 Formulare und Begleitdokumente von DP's in der Schweiz, sowie Schriftwechsel von IRO-Dienststellen in Deutschland, Österreich und dem Nahen Osten mit dem IRO-Hauptquartier in Genf*, f. «Juliusburger Klaus», L.M. Hacking, Division of Mandate and Reparation, to E. Bertschi, 26 January 1950, and the reply, dated 9 February 1950; L.M. Hacking to E. Bertschi, 17 February 1950; E. Bertschi to M. Stevens, 4 September 1950 <<https://collections.arolsen-archives.org>> (accessed 28 May 2022).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., D.E. Perret to E. Bertschi, 18 September 1950, and the following letters concerning the grant by the Reparation Fund (2,000 Swiss Francs) to pay the medical bills.

<sup>11</sup> The National Archives at Washington, DC, *Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787-2004, Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels and Airplanes Departing from New York, 07/01/1948-12/31/1956*, NAI no. 3335533, *ad nomen*, available online: <<https://www.ancestry.com>> (accessed with registration 28 May 2022); it was the 24 September 1954 flight from New York to Cuxhaven.

*Kindern und Vermissten, Unterstützungsprogramme unterschiedlicher Organisationen, IRO «Care and Maintenance» Programm, CM/1 Formulare und Begleitdokumente von DP's in der Schweiz, sowie Schriftwechsel von IRO-Dienststellen in Deutschland, Österreich und dem Nahen Osten mit dem IRO-Hauptquartier in Genf, f. «Juliusburger Klaus»*  
<<https://collections.arolsen-archives.org>>.

Francesca Cavarocchi

Translated by Nicola Cacciatore

Cite as:

Francesca Cavarocchi, *Klaus Juliusburger* (2022), in Patrizia Guarnieri, *Intellectuals Displaced from Fascist Italy. Migrants, Exiles and Refugees Fleeing for Political and Racial Reasons*, Firenze University Press, 2019.

<<http://intellettualinfuga.fupress.com/en>>

ISBN: 978-88-6453-872-3

©2019- Authors

Article published under license CC-BY-SA 4.0.

Publication date: 9 August 2022