

## Clara-Charlotte Fuchs

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Clara-Charlotte Fuchs, who emigrated to Florence from Germany in 1933, demonstrated significant aptitude toward research; in 1939, she had to forgo her studies and move to Great Britain.

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### Degree at Marburg and Emigration to Florence

Clara, the first of three sisters, was born in Stuttgart in 1903 to Friedrich Fuchs and Emilie (Emmy) Fuchs (née Levi). Her father, along with his brother Max, was the manager of the Stuttgart branch of the family company, «Hirsch Fuchs Söhne», specializing in woodworking. Emmy Levi was the daughter of lawyer Nathan Levi and Clara Guttmann<sup>1</sup>.

The young woman obtained her diploma from the local Karls-Gymnasium in 1922; records show that at that time, she was non-denominational, while both her parents came from families of Jewish faith<sup>2</sup>. She graduated from the University of Marburg in 1932 with a thesis on the reception of Dante within German Romanticism, the results of which were published in the «Jahrbuch der deutschen Dante-Gesellschaft»<sup>3</sup>. This is regarded as a significant work, still cited in current scholarship on the subject<sup>4</sup>.

In 1933 she moved to Florence and applied to audit the courses in the Facoltà di lettere [School of Humanities] for the 1933-34 academic year; with deliberation from the Faculty Senate, the aspiring student was duly admitted

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<sup>1</sup> Wolfgang Strauß, *Philipp Fuchs*, in *Gedenkbuch für die Karlsruher Juden*, 2008 <<http://gedenkbuch.informedia.de>> (accessed 31 March 2019).

<sup>2</sup> ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Fuchs Clara Carlotta», 1934-35, certified translation of her birth certificate and high school diploma, 8 March 1935.

<sup>3</sup> Clara-Charlotte Fuchs, *Dante in der deutschen Romantik*, «Jahrbuch der deutschen Dante-Gesellschaft», 15 (NF 6), 1933, pp. 61-131.

<sup>4</sup> Cfr., for example, Daniel Di Massa, «*Wir haben keine Mythologie*»: *Dante's Commedia and the Poetics of Early German Romanticism*, PhD dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 2014, pp. 7, 154.

on 21 March 1935 into the fourth year of coursework after submitting her application a few months prior<sup>5</sup>. Clara ostensibly had difficulties completing her course of study, perhaps because she also needed to work in order to support herself: in 1936-37, she began her first year *fuori corso* [time spent by a student who has not completed all of the university exams and the required final thesis within the set time period], while on 1 April 1939, she submitted a formal request to forgo her studies<sup>6</sup>.

### **In search of a position in Great Britain**

The young woman was later able to emigrate to Great Britain; on 9 October 1939, she was exempted from internment as an enemy alien after being classified as a refugee<sup>7</sup>. She was unemployed and took up residence in Chorleywood, a small town in Hertfordshire.

In December of 1947, she instead resided in the neighborhood of Acton in London, where she worked as a language teacher; she had also been granted a certificate of naturalization<sup>8</sup>.

More information could not be traced for the following phase of her life; Clara-Charlotte must have made Aliyah [the movement of Jews from locations in the Jewish diaspora to the land of Israel], given the fact that she is recorded as deceased in Rishon LeZiyyon, Israel, in 1968<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> The ASUFI conserves two personal files under her name, the first regarding the 1933-34 academic year, and the second starting from the regular enrollment in the 1934-35 academic year. Cfr. ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Fuchs Clara Carlotta», 1933-34, request to the rector, n.d.; *ibid.*, f. «Fuchs Clara Carlotta», 1934-35, request to the rector, 28 November 1934; *ibid.*, rectoral decree n.d. The young woman sojourned with the Foà family on Via Masaccio for a period of time.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, request to the rector, 1 April 1939. On the growing difficulties and expropriation of the family business cfr. W. Strauß, *Philipp Fuchs*, cited.

<sup>7</sup> The National Archives, Kew, London, *WW2 Internees (Aliens) Index Cards 1939-1947*, HO 396/25, *ad nomen* (available online at <<https://www.ancestry.com>>, accessed upon registration 31 March 2019).

<sup>8</sup> *Naturalization*, «The London Gazette», 16 January 1948, p. 418.

<sup>9</sup> Page dedicated to Clara-Charlotte Fuchs at <<https://www.ancestry.com>>.

### Main publications

- Clara-Charlotte Fuchs, *Dante in der deutschen Romantik*, «Jahrbuch der deutschen Dante-Gesellschaft», 15 (NF 6), 1933, pp. 61-131.

### Archival sources

- ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Fuchs Clara Carlotta», 1933-34.
- ASUFI, AC, SS, f. «Fuchs Clara Carlotta», 1934-35.
- The National Archives, Kew, London, *WW2 Internees (Aliens) Index Cards 1939-1947*, HO 396/25, *ad nomen*.
- *Naturalization*, «The London Gazette», 16 January 1948, p. 418.
- Page dedicated to Clara-Charlotte Fuchs at <<https://www.ancestry.com>>.

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- Wolfgang Strauß, *Philipp Fuchs*, in *Gedenkbuch für die Karlsruher Juden*, 2008 <<http://gedenkbuch.informedia.de>>.
- Daniel Di Massa, «*Wir haben keine Mythologie*»: *Dante's Commedia and the Poetics of Early German Romanticism*, PhD dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 2014, pp. 7, 154.

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