



## **Bernadette Mayrhofer**

### **Josef Geringer (Violin I)**

**Born March 8, 1892 in Sniatyn/Galicia (Ukraine since 1991), died February 8, 1979 in New York**

Admission to the orchestra of the Vienna State Opera and the Vienna Philharmonic (WPh) on March 1, 1920, forced to take leave on March 23, 1938 due to his Jewish roots.

During his childhood, concert tours as family ensemble together with his parents (his father was contrabassist) and siblings (5 sisters and 3 brothers) through the countries of the Middle East, prolonged stays in Suez in Egypt and Athens in Greece.

Before 1909 studies at the Music Conservatory in Athens, Greece, 1909/10 – 1911/12 and 1913/14 violin studies at the Imperial-Royal Academy of Music in Vienna, his teacher was Julius Stwertka (concertmaster of the WPh), graduation on June 12, 1913, then – up until his admission to the WPh on March 1, 1920 – orchestral musician at the *Volksoper* in Vienna.



*Josef Geringer*

Marriage to Schewa Sofie Geringer on March 20, 1921, birth of sons Erwin on May 6, 1922 and Harry on November 18, 1923, as well as daughter Lilly on January 13, 1927.

On November 11, 1938 arrest in his apartment by the Nazis and deportation to the concentration camp Dachau, released again on December 23, 1938 (by intervention of Wilhelm Jerger, the provisional director of the WPh); February to September 1939 position as orchestral musician of the Jewish Cultural Federation in Berlin; rescue of his three children Lilly (departure from Vienna on January 11, 1939), Harry and Erwin (few weeks later) by means of a child transport to England; escape by means of the steamship *Rotterdam* from Rotterdam to New York/USA (Polish quota) on November 22, 1939, with the help of his two brothers in the USA (payment of the ship ticket, affidavit); Geringer's wife Schewa Sofie could escape in the last moment with the same ship as her husband, with the help of the Jewish aid organisation HICEM (Polish quota); on December 27, 1939 the eldest son followed to the USA from England, on April 19, 1940 both his younger children.

Seeking work in 1940, interrupted by smaller engagements as violinist in the USA, since 1941



position as concertmaster in the New Orleans Symphony Orchestra, 1943 until retirement in 1970 orchestral musician at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Mid-December 1952 recipient of the Nicolai-medal at the Austrian Consulate in New York/USA.

Sources see footnote<sup>1</sup>

### **Josef Geringer – “one of the orchestra’s best violinists”<sup>2</sup>**

The exceptional talent of Josef Geringer as a violin virtuoso had already begun to show early on in his exceptional childhood and adolescence. Geringer, who was born in Poland, was considered to be a child genius as a violinist. He and his siblings – five sisters and three brothers – received their basic musical training from their father, a contrabassist. As a child, Geringer and his siblings travelled at an early age with their parents as a small family ensemble throughout the Middle East, where they resided in Suez in Egypt for extended periods of time and settled in Athens for a number of years. During the family’s travels, Josef Geringer learned Arabic and Greek. *“When the ‘Orchestra’ reached Greece and learned about a famous music conservatory in Athens, the Geringer family decided to settle there so that my father (as the most talented) could study at the conservatory. They remained in Greece for many years (...) but my father’s teachers soon realized that Josef’s talent could benefit from the teachers of the Music Academy in Vienna (...).”*<sup>3</sup> This is how Josef Geringer came to study at the Academy of Music in Vienna from 1909 – 1914 (with interruptions) and then played as violinist at the *Volksooper* in Vienna. On March 1, 1920, barely 28 years-old, he became a member of the orchestra of the State Opera as well as of the WPh, where he remained up until he was forced into taking leave in March of 1938.

Josef Geringer was among one of the most impressive musicians of the WPh in terms of his artistic qualities. His colleague Otto Strasser, later the executive chair of the WPh, referred to Geringer’s advanced musical qualities in his biography and wrote that – as promising young

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<sup>1</sup> HAdWPh, information on Josef Geringer (161), collected by Dr.in Silvia Kargl; Interview with Lilly Drukker, the youngest daughter of Josef Geringer, Philadelphia/USA, February 2013, provided by Mag. Robert Neumüller (pre tv Vienna); E-mail correspondence of the author with Lilly Drukker, Philadelphia, April 26, 2012; IKG register/database, Department for Restitution Cases, provided by Mag.a Sabine Loitfellner, Jewish Community Vienna; Archive of the IKG Vienna, Jerusalem stock, A/W 2590,69; historical registration records concerning Josef Geringer, Vienna City and State Archive; data sheet, studies at the Imperial-Royal Academy of Music, provided by Dr.in Lynne Heller, Archive of the University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna; Letter of the State Opera directorate to Josef Geringer (forced leave), Vienna, March 23, 1938, AdR, directorate of the State Opera 367/1938; „Erhebungsbogen“, Josef Geringer, Vienna, June 1938, AdR, SThV 2102/38; AdR, aid fund/compensation records, Josef Geringer, GZ 08962/3, 12513/8, 15120; New York Times, December 21, 1952, p. X9.

<sup>2</sup> “ (...) *einer der besten Geiger des Orchesters*” [one of the orchestra’s best violinists]. Otto Strasser honoured his former colleague Josef Geringer as one of the most outstanding artists of the orchestra of the WPh, HAdWPh, Josef Geringer (161), written note of Otto Strasser.

<sup>3</sup> E-mail of Lilly Drukker (as note 1).



violin players – he and two other violinists “*strove for soloist-laurels. (...) As virtuosic talented violinist, he [Geringer] repeatedly publicly performed the compositions of Wilhelm Jerger, among others.*”<sup>4</sup> Two solo performances of Josef Geringer with Wilhelm Jerger as conductor are documented. The violin virtuoso performed on February 12, 1926 with a chamber orchestra and Vienna Philharmonic member Wilhelm Jerger in the Small Hall of the *Musikverein* in Vienna. Four years later, he gave a concert with the orchestra of the State Opera in the Main Hall of the *Musikverein*, conducted once again by Wilhelm Jerger.<sup>5</sup> The friendship that connected the musicians Geringer and Jerger was remarkable. Jerger, who already had joined the NSDAP in 1932 and who was a member of the SS after 1938, was appointed provisional director of the WPh after Austria’s annexation by Germany in 1938, and in December 1939 Goebbels appointed him as chair of the board. While the career of Wilhelm Jerger was virtually accelerated by the annexation, the highly promising professional career of his longstanding colleague and friend Josef Geringer, who then had to rescue himself and his family in a difficult fight for survival, was terminated abruptly.

### **Survival 1938/39 – in Vienna, Dachau and Berlin**

*“As you are likely to know, I have had to experience the greatest humiliations even after my release from the concentration camp Dachau in Austria (sic!), before I finally, and at the risk of my life, managed to emigrate.”*<sup>6</sup> After 18 years of service in the State Opera and the orchestra of the WPh, the State Opera Administration notified him in writing on March 23, 1938 that he was being forced to take leave from the orchestra: *“ (...) that with immediate effect you are on leave until further notice. Mit deutschem Gruß. The Administration of the State Opera.”*<sup>7</sup> Geringer immediately recognized the great potential danger of Nazi rule and immediately started to look for possible means of escape. As soon as May 23, 1938, the Geringer family registered with the emigration office of the Jewish Community Vienna (*Israelitische Kultusgemeinde, IKG*). At this point, Geringer aspired to emigrate to the USA or Australia. He stated that he himself wanted to emigrate first, and then have his wife and children follow.<sup>8</sup> The emigration issue dominated family discussions, and Shanghai was also considered as a

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<sup>4</sup> “ (...) nach Solistenlorbeer trachteten. (...). Er (Geringer, Anm. d. Verf.) spielte als virtuos begabter Geiger wiederholt öffentlich, unter anderem Kompositionen von Wilhelm Jerger.” [strove for soloist-laurels. (...) As virtuosic talented violinist, he [Geringer] repeatedly publicly performed the compositions of Wilhelm Jerger, among others.] Otto Strasser, Und dafür wird man noch bezahlt. Mein Leben mit den Wiener Philharmonikern, Wien 1974, 170.

<sup>5</sup> Advertisement poster of the concert, WPh, depot State Opera, personnel file Wilhelm Jerger.

<sup>6</sup> “Wie Sie wohl wissen, habe ich noch nach meiner Entlassung aus dem Dachauer Konzentrationslager in Oesterreich (sic!) noch die grössten Demütigungen erfahren, bis es mir endlich unter Lebensgefahr gelang, auszuwandern.” [As you are likely to know, I have had to experience the greatest humiliations even after my release from the concentration camp Dachau in Austria, before I finally, and at the risk of my life, managed to emigrate.] Letter of Josef Geringer to the WPh, New York, December 30, 1946, HAdWPh, letter F/13a no. 3.

<sup>7</sup> “ (...) mit sofortiger Wirksamkeit bis auf weiteres beurlaubt sind. Mit deutschem Gruß. Die Direktion der Staatsoper.” [that with immediate effect you are on leave until further notice. Mit deutschem Gruß. The Administration of the State Opera.] Writing of the State Opera Administration to Josef Geringer, Vienna, on March 23, 1938, AdR, State Opera Directorate 367/1938.

<sup>8</sup> Archive of the IKG Vienna, Jerusalem stock, A/W 2590,69.



possible destination. *"Most of the time, talk was about where we could emigrate to. There were always rumors, maybe it will be an orchestra in Shanghai, maybe my father can go there."*<sup>9</sup> A letter of Wilhelm Jerger, who in the meantime was the provisional director of the WPh, to the Gestapo, confirmed the fact that there were concrete plans to depart for Shanghai: *" (...) according to the attached copy of the German Reichspost, Josef Geringer has booked a trip and between December 15. – 20. will be transported to Shanghai."*<sup>10</sup> Jerger concluded the letter with the request *". . . to allow for the departure of Josef Geringer and his family as soon as possible."*<sup>11</sup> It remains unexplained how concrete the Geringer family's plans to depart to Shanghai really were.

The beginning of the November Pogrom on November 9, 1939 – in the course of which 6,547 "Jews" were arrested in Vienna alone<sup>12</sup> – was a shocking event for the Geringer family. Lilly Drucker, Josef Geringer's daughter, recounted: *"We heard that a car stopped in front of our building. (...) and that two men in black SS-uniforms entered the house. After a few minutes, they came upstairs to the first floor and knocked violently on our door. (...) My mother went to the door and then these two SS-men stepped inside with a revolver and told us to stand against the wall. My parents, my two brothers, my aunt and grandmother were in the apartment, and all of us had to stand against the wall. The two SS-men went through the apartment to see if anybody was hiding. One of the men told my father, get your hat and coat, you're coming with us. (...) Then we saw how my father was pushed into a truck and they drove off. (...) We heard nothing of our father. One, two week later we received a postcard from our father from Dachau."*<sup>13</sup> Thereafter, Mrs. Geringer turned to the WPh and asked Wilhelm Jerger for help.

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<sup>9</sup> *"Die meiste Zeit war immer Gespräch über wohin können wir ausreisen. Es waren immer Gerüchte, vielleicht wird es ein Orchester in Shanghai, vielleicht kann mein Vater dort hinkommen."* [Most of the time, talk was about where we could emigrate to. There were always rumors, maybe it will be an orchestra in Shanghai, maybe my father can go there.] Interview with Lilly Drucker (as note 1).

<sup>10</sup> *" (...) Josef Geringer hat laut beiliegender Abschrift der Deutschen Reichspost eine Passage gebucht und wird zwischen 15. – 20. Dezember nach Shanghai befördert."* [(...) according to the attached copy of the German Reichspost, Josef Geringer has booked a trip and between December 15. – 20. will be transported to Shanghai.]

<sup>11</sup> *" (...) die Ausreise Josef Geringers und Familie ehestens zu ermöglichen."* [to allow for the departure of Josef Geringer and his family as soon as possible.] Letter of Wilhelm Jerger/WPh to the Gestapo, z.H.

Regierungsassessor Lange, Vienna, December 12, 1938, WPh, depot State Opera, personnel file Wilhelm Jerger.

<sup>12</sup> Bruce Pauley, *Eine Geschichte des österreichischen Antisemitismus, Von der Ausgrenzung zur Auslöschung*, Wien 1993, 349.

<sup>13</sup> *" (...) wir haben gehört, dass ein Auto vor unserem Gebäude stehen geblieben ist. (...) und dass zwei Männer in schwarzer SS-Uniform ins Haus hineingekommen sind. Nach ein paar Minuten sind sie dann in den ersten Stock gekommen und haben sehr stark an unserer Tür geklopft.(...) Meine Mutter ist zur Türe gegangen und da sind diese zwei SS-Männer herein gekommen mit dem Revolver und haben uns gesagt, dass wir uns an die Wand anlehnen.(sic!) In der Wohnung waren meine Eltern, meine zwei Brüder, Tante, Großmutter. Da haben wir uns alle an die Wand stellen müssen. Die zwei SS-Männer sind durch die Wohnung gegangen, um etwas zu suchen, ob sich jemand versteckt hat. Der eine Mann hat meinem Vater gesagt, nimm deinen Hut und Mantel, du kommst mit uns. (...) da haben wir gesehen, dass mein Vater in einen Lastwagen gestoßen wurde und sind weg gefahren. (...) Wir haben überhaupt nichts von unserem Vater gehört. Ein zwei Wochen später haben wir eine Postkarte bekommen von meinem Vater aus Dachau."* [We heard that a car stopped in front of our building. (...) and that two men in black SS-uniforms entered the house. After a few minutes, they came upstairs to the first floor and knocked violently on



Geringer's fellow Philharmonic member and contemporary Otto Strasser described in his biography: *"And then happened what still today is inconceivable to me: It was possible for his friend Jerger and our colleague Kainz to effect his release."*<sup>14</sup> Apparently after an intervention at the *Feldpolizei* Director, Dr. Roman Loos, Geringer was released from the concentration camp Dachau on December 23, 1938, based on the condition that he emigrate from the German Reich.<sup>15</sup> *"Then we received a call from my father, he said (...) he has arrived from Dachau in Vienna. He only had a very thin prison uniform. (...) He was unshaved and his hair was cut short. He was hungry. (...) He didn't talk, just ate."*<sup>16</sup> Geringer later told his children that he was very worried in the concentration camp, *"that the fingers would be frostbitten and he could no longer play the violin."*<sup>17</sup> For Josef Geringer and his family the psychological stress and existential fears of this traumatic event must have been immense – from this point on, the only possible alternative was an escape into exile. *"My mother was often away, she had to line up in order to get things done, in order to emigrate; various documents were required here, such as proof that you were free of debt. My mother was often gone the whole day, there always were long queues. (...) My mother tried to register me for one of the child transports."*<sup>18</sup> All three children could be rescued by means of child transports to England: First, on January 11, 1939, the youngest daughter Lilly, a few weeks later the son Harry, and finally the oldest

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our door. (...) My mother went to the door and then these two SS-men stepped inside with a revolver and told us to stand against the wall. My parents, my two brothers, my aunt and grandmother were in the apartment, and all of us had to stand against the wall. The two SS-men went through the apartment to see if anybody was hiding. One of the men told my father, get your hat and coat, you're coming with us. (...) Then we saw how my father was pushed into a truck and they drove off. (...) We heard nothing of our father. One, two week later we received a postcard from our father from Dachau.] Interview with Lilly Drukker (as note 1).

<sup>14</sup> *„Und dann geschah das mir heute noch Unbegreifliche: Seinem Freund Jerger und unserem Kollegen Kainz gelang es, seine Freilassung zu erwirken.“* [And then happened what still today is inconceivable to me: It was possible for his friend Jerger and our colleague Kainz to effect his release.] Strasser, Und dafür wird man noch bezahlt (as note 4), 170.

<sup>15</sup> Strasser, Und dafür wird man noch bezahlt (as note 4), 170.

<sup>16</sup> *„Da haben wir einen Anruf von meinem Vater bekommen, er hat gesagt, (...) er ist aus Dachau angekommen in Wien. Er hatte nur eine ganz dünne Uniform vom Gefängnis. (...) Er war nicht rasiert, aber Haar am Kopf abgeschnitten. Er war hungrig. (...) Er hat nicht gesprochen, nur gegessen.“* [Then we received a call from my father, he said (...) he has arrived from Dachau in Vienna. He only had a very thin prison uniform. (...) He was unshaved and his hair was cut short. He was hungry. (...) He didn't talk, just ate.] Archive of the IKG Vienna, Jerusalem stock, A/W 2590,69; Clemens Hellsberg, *Demokratie der Könige, Die Geschichte der Wiener Philharmoniker*, Zürich 1992, 505; *„According to telephone communication from Miss Schewa Geringer, he is already released from preventive arrest in Dachau and has returned to his apartment in Vienna.“* [„Laut telefonischer Verständigung seitens Frau Schewa Geringer ist er aus der Schutzhaft Dachau bereits entlassen und in seine Wohnung zurückgekehrt.“] Report Hermann Juch (financial attorney SThV), Vienna, December 28, 1938, AdR, SThV 4458/38, board „Judenakte“.

<sup>17</sup> *„ (...) dass die Finger erfrieren und er nicht Violine spielen könnte.“* [that the fingers would be frostbitten and he could no longer play the violin.] Interview with Lilly Drukker (as note 1).

<sup>18</sup> *„Meine Mutter war öfter weg, hat sich anstellen müssen, um etwas zu tun, um auszuwandern, da brauchte man verschiedene Papiere, dass man keine Schulden hat. Meine Mutter war oft den ganzen Tag weg, da waren immer lange Linien. (...) Meine Mutter hat versucht, mich für einen Kindertransport anzumelden.“* [My mother was often away, she had to line up in order to get things done, in order to emigrate; various documents were required here, such as proof that you were free of debt. My mother was often gone the whole day, there always were long queues. (...) My mother tried to register me for one of the child transports.]



child Erwin. While the three children could thus escape the horror, the family's human tragedy behind this separation, however, must have been severely grave: *"Many years later, my mother told me that it was the worst day of her live, when she sent away her youngest child to strangers in a foreign country, and she had no idea whether she would ever see me again. I was happy to get out of Vienna. Then, I (...) arrived in London on January 13, my 12. birthday, and was taken up by a Jewish family. It was on a Friday evening (...), I sat at a long table together with the whole family of English Jews [for the traditional Sabbath meal on Friday evening]. I frequently took the napkin and dropped it on the floor intentionally, so that I could get under the table, where people wouldn't see me crying, and thus I wiped away my tears. This was the first time I realized that I was away from my parents and brothers."*<sup>19</sup> While Lilly found accommodation with a Jewish family, her two brothers were housed separately in public shelters. All three of them could attend school in London and thereby also learned English.<sup>20</sup> In the meantime, preparations for the escape of Josef and Schewa Geringer proved to be very difficult. As a result of the implementation in Austrian territory on May 31, 1938 of German cultural legislation (the so-called *Reichskulturkammergesetz*), Jewish musicians were prohibited to carry out their profession. In 1938 Josef Geringer initially managed to support his family with his salary (Schillings 510 gross), which was paid to him until July. In July 1938, his retirement contributions of 1,060.24 Schillings, minus debt, were paid to him.<sup>21</sup> This amount was then deducted later from his severance pay, which the State Theatre Administration (SThV) paid to Geringer in December 1938. According to a note of the Jewish Community (IKG), Geringer received severance pay totaling 3,600 RM from the SThV; however, according to Schewa Geringer, de facto only 2,400 RM were paid out.<sup>22</sup> Originally, Geringer only was offered three month severance pay. However, on August 22, 1938, Geringer turned to the SThV in writing and successfully defended his claim: *"I may hereby make the polite request to concede to me a severance pay in the amount of a full year's salary and hope that this will not be seen as an immodesty, because I do have to provide for a family*

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<sup>19</sup> *Viele Jahre später, hat meine Mutter mir gesagt, es war der schrecklichste Tag ihres Lebens, das jüngste Kind weg zu schicken, in ein fremdes Land zu fremden Leuten, und sie hat keine Ahnung gehabt, ob sie mich wieder sehen wird. Ich war froh, aus Wien weg zu kommen. Ich bin dann (...) am 13. Jänner, meinem 12. Geburtstag, in London angekommen und von einer jüdischen Familie angenommen worden. Es war an einem Freitagabend (...), bin mit der ganzen Familie englischer Juden am langen Tisch gesessen (beim traditionellen Jüdischen Sabbatmahl am Freitag Abend, Anm. der Verf.). Öfter habe ich die Serviette genommen und absichtlich auf den Boden fallen lassen, um unter den Tisch zu kommen, damit die Leute nicht sehen, dass ich weine und so habe ich mir die Tränen weggewischt. Es war das erste Mal, dass mir bewusst wurde, dass ich weg von meinen Eltern und meinen Brüdern bin."* [Many years later, my mother told me that it was the worst day of her live, when she sent away her youngest child to strangers in a foreign country, and she had no idea whether she would ever see me again. I was happy to get out of Vienna. Then, I (...) arrived in London on January 13, my 12. birthday, and was taken up by a Jewish family. It was on a Friday evening (...), I sat at a long table together with the whole family of English Jews [for the traditional Sabbath meal on Friday evening]. I frequently took the napkin and dropped it on the floor intentionally, so that I could get under the table, where people wouldn't see me crying, and thus I wiped away my tears. This was the first time I realized that I was away from my parents and brothers.] Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Asset statement, Josef Geringer, Vienna, July 14, 1938, AdR, VA 18931.

<sup>22</sup> Archive of the IKG Vienna, Jerusalem stock, A/W 2590,69.



of eight and on top of that am in debt.”<sup>23</sup> The head of the SThV, Dr. Alfred Eckmann, personally intervened in Josef Geringer’s case at the Reich Governor’s Office (*Reichsstatthalterei*).<sup>24</sup> Geringer was still in the concentration camp Dachau, when the result of this intervention was communicated to him: “(...) *The following was brought to the knowledge of the Jew in custodial arrest: ‘(...) you are dismissed as of the end of the month of December 1938. (...) you will receive a severance pay in the amount of twelve times your last monthly salary. You are not entitled to any legal recourse regarding this decision.’*”<sup>25</sup> On December 31, 1938, Alfred Eckman ordered the “liquidity”<sup>26</sup> of the severance pay. The retirement contributions which had already been paid off were deducted from this amount.<sup>27</sup> The WPh made the final disbursement, a severance pay of an amount of 336 RM, to Geringer on January 20, 1939.<sup>28</sup>

Josef Geringer therefore needed to look for new sources of income. One of the few remaining occupations for Jewish artists after the November Pogroms of 1938 was the arts scene of the *Jüdischer Kulturbund* in Berlin. This Jewish Cultural Federation was encouraged and founded by the Jews in 1933, mainly as a cultural alternative for the excluded Jewish men and women to the Nazi arts scene and as a means to provide employment to those Jewish artists, who were brutally ejected from professional life. The Nazis approved of the foundation of this cultural organization, which was open only to Jews, on the basis of strategic and foreign policy considerations.<sup>29</sup> From February to September 1939, Josef

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<sup>23</sup> “*Ich erlaube mir hiermit die höfliche Bitte zu stellen, mir eine Abfertigung in der Höhe einer Jahresgage zuerkennen zu wollen und hoffe, dass dies nicht als Unbescheidenheit angesehen wird, da ich für eine achtköpfige Familie zu sorgen habe und außerdem verschuldet bin.*” [I may hereby make the polite request to concede to me a severance pay in the amount of a full year’s salary and hope that this will not be seen as an immodesty, because I do have to provide for a family of eight and on top of that am in debt] Josef Geringer to the SThV, Vienna, August 22, 1938, AdR, SThV 3115/38, board „Judenakte“.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., Dr. Alfred Eckmann to the office of the Reich Governor, to the attention of Dr. Reisch, Vienna, September 13, 1938.

<sup>25</sup> “ (...) *Dem Schutzhaft-Juden wurde folgendes zur Kenntnis gebracht: (...) werden Sie mit Monatsfrist zum Ende Dezember 1938 gekündigt. (...) erhalten Sie eine Abfertigung in der Höhe es 12fachen des letzten Monatsentgeltes. Ein Rechtsmittel gegen diese Entscheidung steht Ihnen nicht zu.*” [(...) The following was brought to the knowledge of the Jew in custodial arrest: ‘(...) you are dismissed as of the end of the month of December 1938. (...) you will receive a severance pay in the amount of twelve times your last monthly salary. You are not entitled to any legal recourse regarding this decision.’] Ibid., Notice of the ‘decree of the Reich Governor’ by Josef Geringer, Dachau 3 K, November 30, 1938; Letter of Dr. Trnka, *Geheime Staatspolizei* Vienna, to Dr. Eckmann, SThV, Vienna, January 21, 1939.

<sup>26</sup> “*Flüssigmachung.*”

<sup>27</sup> AdR, SThV 4458/38, 3115/38, board „Judenakte“; Archive of the IKG Vienna, Jerusalem stock, A/W 2590,69.

<sup>28</sup> HAdWPh, Josef Geringer (161) (as note 1).

<sup>29</sup> The rationale of Nazi State Commissioner and *Reichskulturwalter* Hans Hinkel to the establishment of the Jewish Cultural Federation: “*Decisive herefore were, next to intentions related to foreign politics, also the more simple possibilities of a surveillance and concentration of the intellectual-cultural Jewry in an organisation by which ‘art is produced’ by Jews and solely for Jews.*” [„Maßgebend waren hierfür neben außenpolitischen Absichten die einfachere Möglichkeit der Überwachung und die Zusammendrängung des geistig-künstlerischen Judentums in einer Organisation, durch die von Juden nur für Juden ‘Kunst gemacht’ wird.“], See: *Jüdischer Kulturbund*,



Geringer went to the Jewish Cultural Federation in Berlin as a musician, where according to his wife he received a monthly salary of 150 RM.<sup>30</sup> It remains unknown to the author in which way Geringer managed everyday life in Berlin in these months in 1939, a time during which many artistic colleagues fled Berlin, and the Cultural Federation found it increasingly difficult to compensate the personnel migration in the arts scene.<sup>31</sup> Judging from the available sources, it is likely that Geringer remained in Berlin from the beginning of the war up until his escape to New York. After his release from the concentration camp Dachau in December 1938, Geringer stood under great pressure immediately to find a way to leave the country. His official status after his internment in the concentration camp was *"released without conditions."*<sup>32</sup> His employment in the Cultural Federation in Berlin granted him a certain period of protection, in which he could organize his emigration. The Jewish Cultural Federation in Berlin, the continuation of which after the November Pogrom was commanded by Joseph Goebbels himself, remained one of the Nazi regime's foreign policy propaganda instruments until the beginning of the war.<sup>33</sup> An additional obstacle to the departure was that Geringer and his wife had used up all of their savings and were *"completely impoverished (...)."*<sup>34</sup> The *"dismissal pay of the husband was used partly for subsistence, and partly for equipping the children."*<sup>35</sup>

### Escape from Vienna

*"My relatives are unfortunately so poor that it is a great sacrifice to them to send a ticket for my husband. I stand here all alone and have no way to get out."*<sup>36</sup>

With the help of his brothers John and Maurice in New York, who due to destitute conditions could buy only one ship ticket, Josef Geringer acquired a ship ticket from Rotterdam to New York as well as an affidavit (certified suretyship declaration) necessary for emigration to the USA. His wife Schewa in Vienna, however, neither possessed the money for a ship ticket nor had relatives who could help her. Her situation was exceptionally precarious. The IKG noted

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Geschlossene Gesellschaft, Der Spiegel 33/1965, 73f, available online at <http://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/print/d46273734.html>.

<sup>30</sup> Archive of the IKG Vienna, Jerusalem stock, A/W 2590,69.

<sup>31</sup> "Kulturbund Deutscher Juden" siehe: <http://www.dhm.de/lemo/html/nazi/antisemitismus/kulturbund/>.

<sup>32</sup> " (...) *ausgewiesen ohne Frist* " [released without conditions.] Archive of the IKG Vienna, Jerusalem stock, A/W 2590,69.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., Nazi State Commissioner Hans Hinkel released Jewish actors from the KZ after the November Pogrom, in order to ensure the maintenance of the art scene of the Jewish Cultural Federation. See: Jüdischer Kulturbund, Der Spiegel (as note 28).

<sup>34</sup> " (...) *gänzlich vermögenslos* (...)." [completely impoverished (...)]

<sup>35</sup> " (...) *Abfertigung des Mannes wurde teilweise für's Leben und teilweise zur Ausstattung der Kinder verwendet.*" [severance pay of the husband was used partly for subsistence, and partly for equipping the children.] Archive of the IKG Vienna, Jerusalem stock, A/W 2590,69.

<sup>36</sup> *"Leider sind meine Verwandten so arm, dass sie unter schweren Opfern eine Karte für meinen Mann schickten. Ich stehe hier ganz allein und habe gar keine Möglichkeit wegzukommen."* [My relatives are unfortunately so poor that it is a great sacrifice to them to send a ticket for my husband. I stand here all alone and have no way to get out.] Ibid.



about Mrs. Geringer's living conditions in Vienna: "*Rents a bed (...), rent 10 RM.*"<sup>37</sup> In addition to these precarious living conditions, Schewa Geringer was "*completely impoverished,*"<sup>38</sup> and lived on "*free meals,*"<sup>39</sup> "*1 suitcase with clothes and linens*"<sup>40</sup> and a small, monthly financial "*support of the I.K.G. (sic!) of 10 RM.*"<sup>41</sup> Mrs. Geringer desperately sought means of departure. On July 23, 1939, she filed an application at the IKG for a departure to Italy.<sup>42</sup> With the receipt of an affidavit for the USA, it now became clear that, like her husband, she wanted to escape to New York. "*At the same time, my aunt here in America had found people who gave an affidavit of support, a declaration of support. First for my father, because men were more endangered, but also for my mother. And at about the same time the quota, the Polish quota (...) was released.*"<sup>43</sup> Approximately in October 1939, Schewa Geringer applied at the IKG for the payment of a ship ticket to New York: "*I (...) have tried everything to get the ship tickets from America. My relatives are unfortunately so poor that it is a great sacrifice to them to send a ticket for my husband. I stand here all alone and have no way to get out.*"<sup>44</sup> After an initial decline of her request, on October 21 she was finally "*granted a ship ticket for \$173.*"<sup>45</sup> On November 1, 1939, an additional request by Schewa Geringer arrived at the IKG: "*It would be of greatest importance that I travel together with my husband, because he needs my help. Since this ship costs \$183 however, I would in this case need an additional \$10. I kindly request you to grant me this additional amount, as it pertains to the health of my husband, who has in Dachau incurred a nervous disease.*"<sup>46</sup> The extra funds for the steamship *Rotterdam* were

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<sup>37</sup> "*Bettgeherin (...), Zins 10 RM.*" [Rents a bed (...), rent 10 RM.]

<sup>38</sup> "*(...) gänzlich vermögenslos*" [completely impoverished].

<sup>39</sup> "*Ausspeisung*" [free meals].

<sup>40</sup> "*1 Koffer mit Kleidung, Wäsche*" [1 suitcase with clothes and linens].

<sup>41</sup> "*Unterstützung von der I.K.G. (sic!) 10 RM*" [support of the I.K.G. (sic!) of 10 RM].

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> "*Zur selben Zeit hat meine Tante hier in Amerika Leute gefunden, die ein Affidavit of Support, eine Unterstützungserklärung, gaben. Zuerst für meinen Vater, weil Männer waren mehr in Gefahr, aber auch für meine Mutter. Und ungefähr zur selben Zeit ist die Quote, die polnische Quote (...) auch frei gekommen.*" [At the same time, my aunt here in America had found people who gave an affidavit of support, a declaration of support. First for my father, because men were more endangered, but also for my mother. And at about the same time the quota, the Polish quota (...) was released.] Interview with Lilly Drukker (as note 1).

<sup>44</sup> "*Ich (...) habe alles versucht um aus Amerika die Schiffskarten zu bekommen. Leider sind meine Verwandten so arm, dass sie unter schweren Opfern eine Karte für meinen Mann schickten. Ich stehe hier ganz allein und habe gar keine Möglichkeit wegzukommen.*" [I (...) have tried everything to get the ship tickets from America. My relatives are unfortunately so poor that it is a great sacrifice to them to send a ticket for my husband. I stand here all alone and have no way to get out.] Archive of the IKG Vienna, Jerusalem stock, A/W 2590,69.

<sup>45</sup> "*(...) eine Schiffskarte um \$173,- bewilligt*" [granted a ship ticket for \$173.] Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> "*Da mein Mann meine Hilfe braucht, wäre es von grösster Wichtigkeit, dass ich mit ihm gemeinsam fahre. Doch würde ich in diesem Falle noch \$10,- brauchen, da dieses Schiff \$183,- kostet. Ich ersuche hiemit (sic!) höfl. mir noch diesen Betrag zu bewilligen, da es sich um die Gesundheit meines Mannes handelt, der sich in Dachau ein Nervenleiden zugezogen hat.*" [It would be of greatest importance that I travel together with my husband, because he needs my help. Since this ship costs \$183 however, I would in this case need an additional \$10. I kindly request you to grant me this additional amount, as it pertains to the health of my husband, who has in Dachau incurred a nervous disease.] Ibid.

approved. Schewa Geringer left Austria probably on November 15, 1939.<sup>47</sup> The married couple could be determined via the online network ancestry.com to have been on the passenger list of the steamship *Rotterdam* from Rotterdam to New York – the bookings were made at different times, and on the passenger list Josef Geringer mentioned his wife in Vienna as a contact. Up until shortly before his departure from Rotterdam, Josef Geringer did not know about the unbelievably good fortune that his wife would escape the Nazi terror with him on the same ship. Both refugees must have been very happy about departing together on the steamship *Rotterdam* on November 22, 1939 from Rotterdam and reaching New York on December 2, 1939.<sup>48</sup>

In 1939 the Geringer family had to leave Geringer's mother-in-law, Regina Karpel, in the apartment they shared in Vienna's second district, Klosterneuburger Straße 10. She was deported to Theresienstadt on July 28, 1942 at the age of 74, and then transferred to the extermination camp Treblinka, where she was murdered.<sup>49</sup>

### Family reunion in the USA

*"I had the great fortune to be not only well accepted in this blessed country, but also after long separation to be reunited again with my wife and children."*<sup>50</sup>

Soon after their arrival in the USA, the married couple Geringer were reunited with their children again. On December 31, 1939, Erwin, their eldest 17 year-old son, arrived from Great Britain (Southampton) in New York harbour on the steamship *Lancastria*,<sup>51</sup> which would later come to fame in a sad way. A few months later, on April 19, 1940, the ship *Nova Scotia* from Great Britain (Liverpool) landed in Boston harbour in Massachusetts with both their younger children on board. Thus, the 13-year-old Lilly and the 16-year-old Harry could finally live together with their parents again.<sup>52</sup> After the USA entered into the war, both of Josef Geringer's sons joined the American army in order to fight against Nazi Germany. Lilly

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<sup>47</sup> Compensation documents, application of Josef Geringer, New York, October 28, 1956, AdR, aid fund, number 08962.

<sup>48</sup> Passenger lists, online genealogy network ancestry.com, researched and provided by Mag.a Sabine Loitfellner, IKG Vienna/restitution department; Interview with Lilly Drukner (as note 1).

<sup>49</sup> Regine Karpel was deported from Theresienstadt to Treblinka in the context of eleven *Altentransporte*. Thereby, a total of 19,004 people, usually above the age of 65, were between September 19 and October 22, 1942 deported to the extermination camps Treblinka und Maly Trostinec and murdered. Only three survived. See: Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance, Online database, [Hhttp://www.doew.at](http://www.doew.at)H. The father-in-law of Josef Geringer died many years before the Nazi era, as well as Geringer's own parents, who died in Athens.

<sup>50</sup> *"Ich habe das grosse Glück gehabt, in diesem gesegneten Land nicht nur freundlich aufgenommen zu werden, sondern auch hier nach langer Trennung mit Frau und Kindern wieder zusammen zu kommen."* [I had the great fortune to be not only well accepted in this blessed country, but also after long separation to be reunited again with my wife and children.] Letter of Josef Geringer to the WPh, New York, December 30, 1946, HAdWPh, letter F/13a no. 3.

<sup>51</sup> On June 16, 1940, the British steamship *Lancastria* participated in the evacuation of British troops and citizens from France. It was sunk by the German air force only the following day and between 3,500 and 6,000 refugees died. See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS\\_Lancastria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Lancastria).

<sup>52</sup> Passenger lists (as note 48).

Drukker, Geringer's daughter, stated in an interview in the year 2013: *"We were very lucky, my brothers came back."*<sup>53</sup>

Another important step that signalled the long-term domestic and professional life planning of Geringer in the USA was his adoption of US citizenship. On March 14, 1945, Josef Geringer – as well as his family – accepted the US citizenship. At this point in his life, Geringer was 53 years-old and lived with his family in New York.<sup>54</sup>

### **New Homeland, New Chances**

*"He was in Vienna for 18 years and also for 18 years at the Met."*<sup>55</sup>

Josef Geringer successfully managed to establish himself professionally in American exile. While he initially stated to be without income and seeking work in a US-census of April 1, 1940, Geringer could eventually – starting with smaller engagements – establish an increasingly stable professional life in exile. *"During the first couple of months (...) he got positions in smaller orchestras. Maybe a year later, a position as concertmaster in New Orleans for a couple of years. First alone, one season, because there was no air-conditioning yet. The orchestras did not play in summer time."*<sup>56</sup> In 1943 Geringer received the offer to start as orchestral musician at the Metropolitan Opera (Met). His daughter Lilly stated in an interview in 2013: *"My mother was a little concerned that he would not accept it, because he was no concertmaster, but only a violin player. But he did accept. He was in Vienna for 18 years and also for 18 years at the Met."*<sup>57</sup>

The performance season at the Met was still very short during the war, just 16 weeks, followed by a few weeks of touring. The musicians were thus forced to bridge the long performance breaks with additional engagements. The author was unable to ascertain how Josef Geringer professionally and financially managed these long breaks. The performance

<sup>53</sup> *"Wir haben viel Glück gehabt, meine Brüder sind zurückgekommen."* [We were very lucky, my brothers came back] Interview with Lilly Drukker (as note 1).

<sup>54</sup> Copies, naturalisation papers, IKG register/database (as note 1).

<sup>55</sup> *"Er war in Wien 18 Jahre und auch 18 Jahre bei der Met."* [He was in Vienna for 18 years and also for 18 years at the Met.] Interview with Lilly Drukker (as note 1).

<sup>56</sup> *"Er hat die ersten paar Monate (...) in kleineren Orchestern einen Posten bekommen. Vielleicht ein Jahr später, einen Posten bekommen als Konzertmeister in New Orleans für ein paar Jahre. Zuerst allein, Saison, denn da war noch kein aircondition. Im Sommer spielen die Orchester nicht."* [During the first couple of months (...) he got positions in smaller orchestras. Maybe a year later, a position as concertmaster in New Orleans for a couple of years. First alone, one season, because there was no air-conditioning yet. The orchestras did not play in summer time.] Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> *"Meine Mutter hatte ein bisschen Angst gehabt, er würde das nicht annehmen, weil er war nicht Konzertmeister, sondern nur Geigenspieler. Aber er hat das angenommen. Er war in Wien 18 Jahre und auch 18 Jahre bei der Met."* [My mother was a little concerned that he would not accept it, because he was no concertmaster, but only a violin player. But he did accept. He was in Vienna for 18 years and also for 18 years at the Met.] Ibid.

season of the Metropolitan Opera was extended to nearly the year-round only in 1966.<sup>58</sup> In 1970, Josef Geringer left the orchestra of the Met when he retired at the age of 78.<sup>59</sup>

### Relationship to Austria and the Vienna Philharmonic

*"My father often said that when he was in Dachau, he had often thought, one day I will be able to laugh about these terrible times. He had always had hope."*<sup>60</sup>

In the politically tense times shortly after the end of war, Vienna (still) remembered the exiles. In the end of 1946, Geringer as well as other political emigres received an official invitation from the WPh *"to return to the ranks of Vienna Philharmonic and again take up the seat from which you were at that time illegally expelled."*<sup>61</sup> Additionally, he was urged to *"declare your decision in this matter as soon as possible"*<sup>62</sup> and the letter closed with the hope *"that you will grant us opportunity to make up for a small part of the injustice committed."*<sup>63</sup> The effect of this invitation on Geringer was primarily positive: *"I have a few days ago received your friendly letter of 16. X. and have with satisfaction taken note of the decision of the assembly by which you disapprove of the injustice committed and again offer me my old position."*<sup>64</sup> In his response letter, Geringer had the need to describe to his former colleagues in Vienna the traumatic times of persecution. He recounted for them his abduction to the concentration camp Dachau and *"the greatest humiliations"*<sup>65</sup> which he was forced to endure afterwards in Austria. At the same time, he expressed in the writing to the WPh his greatest respect and gratitude towards his host country, the USA. *"I have had the great fortune to be (...) well accepted in this blessed country, (...). Since we all already are American citizens and I also have an excellent position, it will be understandable that I can not yet today give a definite answer to your friendly invitation, especially since – as you yourself emphasize – the living conditions in*

<sup>58</sup> Hugo Burghauser, *Philharmonische Begegnungen, Erinnerungen eines Wiener Philharmonikers*, Zürich 1979, 168.

<sup>59</sup> E-Mail of Lilly Drukker (as note 1).

<sup>60</sup> *"Mein Vater hat öfters gesagt, wie er in Dachau war, hat er sich öfters gedacht, einmal werde ich über diese schreckliche Zeit noch lachen können. Er hat immer Hoffnung gehabt."* [My father often said that when he was in Dachau, he had often thought, one day I will be able to laugh about these terrible times. He had always had hope.] Interview with Lilly Drukker (as note 1).

<sup>61</sup> *" (...) in die Reihen der Wiener Philharmoniker zurückzukehren und den Platz wieder einzunehmen, von dem Sie seinerzeit widerrechtlich vertrieben wurden."* [to return to the ranks of Vienna Philharmonic and again take up the seat from which you were at that time illegally expelled.]

<sup>62</sup> *"Ihren diesbezüglichen Entschluß ehe baldigst bekannt(zu)geben."* [declare your decision in this matter as soon as possible.]

<sup>63</sup> *"daß Sie uns Gelegenheit geben, einen kleinen Teil des verübten Unrechts wieder gutmachen zu können."* [that you will grant us opportunity to make up for a small part of the injustice committed.] Invitation of the WPh to Josef Geringer, Vienna, October 16, 1946, HAdWPh, Josef Geringer (161).

<sup>64</sup> *"Ihr freundliches Schreiben vom 16. X. erhielt ich vor einigen Tagen und habe mit Genugtuung den Beschluss der Versammlung zur Kenntnis genommen, wonach Sie das geschehene Unrecht missbilligen und mir meine alte Stellung wieder anbieten."* [I have a few days ago received your friendly letter of 16. X. and have with satisfaction taken note of the decision of the assembly by which you disapprove of the injustice committed and again offer me my old position.] Letter of Josef Geringer to the WPh (as note 50).

<sup>65</sup> *" (...) die grössten Demütigungen"* [the greatest humiliations]



*Austria at the moment are not favourable.*<sup>66</sup> Geringer bids goodbye *"with best greetings to my old friends und well-intentioned colleagues in the orchestra."*<sup>67</sup> These words of farewell signal critical undertones, in which Geringer as an expelled member of the Vienna Philharmonic tacitly implies that there likewise were 'less well-intentioned colleagues' in the orchestra, whom he wished to deny his personal greetings. In this context, it would be interesting to investigate also the issue of Geringer's post-war relationship to the Nazi chairman of the WPh and SS-member, Wilhelm Jerger, and the question how he judged the character and role of Jerger from a distance. There are, however, no known sources related to these issues.

Josef Geringer was 64 years old on October 28, 1956, when he applied for compensation for the injustices incurred at the Austrian *Fonds zur Hilfeleistung an politisch Verfolgte, die ihren Wohnsitz und ständigen Aufenthalt im Ausland haben*<sup>68</sup> (aid fund). After long negotiations between the Austrian government and the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria (Claims Committee), the aid fund was passed in the National Assembly not until January 18, 1956, under great pressure from the USA. The height of the amount disbursed was determined to be between 10,000 and 30,000 Schillings, depending on the age and impairment of health and employability of the victims of persecution.<sup>69</sup> It is unclear why a corresponding payment order of the aid fund for an amount of 28,500 Schillings to Geringer and his wife was not made until February 6, 1959.<sup>70</sup>

In response to an additional application of Josef Geringer for compensation payments due to incurred professional damages, he was on July 12, 1963 informed in writing by the aid fund that due to the persecution he had *"incurred professional damages in terms of \$18 of the*

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<sup>66</sup> *"Ich habe das grosse (sic!) Glück gehabt, in diesem gesegneten Land (...) freundlich aufgenommen zu werden, (...). Nachdem wir alle bereits amerikanische Staatsbürger sind und ich ausserdem eine herrliche Stellung habe, ist es wohl begreiflich, wenn ich auf Ihre freundliche Einladung heute noch keine endgültige Antwort geben kann, insbesondere da – wie Sie selbst betonen – die Lebensverhältnisse in Oesterreich gegenwärtig nicht günstig sind."* [I have had the great fortune to be (...) well accepted in this blessed country, (...). Since we all already are American citizens and I also have an excellent position, it will be understandable that I can not yet today give a definite answer to your friendly invitation, especially since – as you yourself emphasize – the living conditions in Austria at the moment are not favourable.]

<sup>67</sup> *" (...) mit den besten Gruessen an meine alten Freunde und wohlmeinenden Kollegen im Orchester."* [with best greetings to my old friends und well-intentioned colleagues in the orchestra.] Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> Aid Fund for the Politically Persecuted with Foreign Domicile and Permanent Residence.

<sup>69</sup> The aid fund was endowed with 550 million Schillings. The term 'aid fund' (*Hilfsfonds*) should disguise the actual purpose, namely to financially compensate the victims of National Socialism. Austria, which met its compensatory obligation only under great pressure of the USA, did not want to create the impression that it would assume *"responsibility in any form for the Nazi crimes"* [auch nur in irgendeiner Form Verantwortung für NS-Verbrechen]. Therefore, the payments were declared as 'aid' (*Hilfeleistungen*) and not as 'compensation' (*Entschädigung*). See: Brigitte Bailer-Galanda, *Die Entstehung der Rückstellungs- und Entschädigungsgesetzgebung. Die Republik Österreich und das in der NS-Zeit entzogene Vermögen*, Wien München 2003, 374, 581-584.

<sup>70</sup> Compensation records, Josef Geringer, AdR, aid fund, GZ 08962/3.



statutes.”<sup>71</sup> Geringer was conferred a financial “*compensation for professional damages*”<sup>72</sup> of over 20,000 Schillings, which was paid out in several partial amounts over a period from July 1963 to October 1971.<sup>73</sup> The final compensation payment to Geringer was effected on October 20, 1977. Geringer received an “*assistance*”<sup>74</sup> of 14,000 Schillings.<sup>75</sup>

Based on the studies of the sources on Josef Geringer’s life, the author has an increasingly strong impression, that in the case of this expelled member of the WPh neither resentment nor ‘lived’ bitterness towards his past can be felt. “*My father often said that, when he was in Dachau, he had often thought, one day I will be able to laugh about these terrible times. He had always had hope.*”<sup>76</sup> In 1956, Josef Geringer, his wife Schewa and their children, Lilly and Erwin, undertook a trip through Europe together. Daughter Lilly remarked on this in an interview: “ (...) *we visited England, and they got to know the English family. Then, we also wanted to go to Paris, Italy and of course Austria.*”<sup>77</sup> From September 16 through September 22, 1956, the Geringer family resided in Austria. In Salzburg, Geringer and his family met the WPh. “*It was nice to see the Philharmonic again, to talk with them. It seemed to me that everybody was very friendly.*”<sup>78</sup> Later, when the WPh once gave a concert in New York, Geringer invited a few musicians to his home. Nevertheless, his daughter Lilly judged her father’s ‘homesickness’ as ‘not incessant’: “*He did not long for Vienna, he had a pleasant life here.*”<sup>79</sup>

Nine years after his retirement, Josef Geringer passed away in New York on February 8, 1979, at the age of 87. Josef Geringer’s impressive life story shows that he must have been a mentally very strong and self-assured personality, who constructively looked into the future and did not shipwreck on the terrifying experiences of Nazi terror.

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<sup>71</sup> “ (...) *einen Berufsschaden im Sinne des § 18 der Statuten erlitten.*” [incurred professional damages in terms of §18 of the statutes.]

<sup>72</sup> “*Entschädigung für Berufsschaden.*” [Compensation for professional damages.]

<sup>73</sup> Ibid., GZ 12.513/8.

<sup>74</sup> “*Aushilfe.*” [Assistance.]

<sup>75</sup> In this case was probably implemented the *Aushilfegesetz* of December 13, 1976 on the “*Gewährung einer Aushilfe zur Milderung von Härten infolge bestimmter Vermögensverluste*”, HBGBI 712/1976H. See: [Hhttps://www.ris.bka.gv.at](https://www.ris.bka.gv.at)H; compensation records Josef Geringer, AdR, aid fund, GZ 15.120.

<sup>76</sup> “*Mein Vater hat öfter gesagt, wie er in Dachau war, hat er sich öfters gedacht, einmal werde ich über diese schreckliche Zeit noch lachen können. Er hat immer Hoffnung gehabt.*” [My father often said that, when he was in Dachau, he had often thought, one day I will be able to laugh about these terrible times. He had always had hope.] Interview with Lilly Drukker (as note 1).

<sup>77</sup> “ (...) *haben England besucht, haben sie die englische Familie kennengelernt. Dann wollten wir auch nach Paris, Italien und natürlich auch Österreich.*” [(...) we visited England and they got to know the English family. Then we also wanted to go to Paris, Italy and of course Austria.]

<sup>78</sup> “*Es war schön wieder die Philharmoniker zu sehen, mit ihnen zu sprechen. Es scheint mir, jeder war sehr freundlich.*” [It was nice to see the Philharmonic again, to talk with them. It seemed to me that everybody was very friendly.] Interview with Lilly Drukker (as note 1).

<sup>79</sup> “*Er hat sich nicht nach Wien gesehnt, er hat ein angenehmes Leben hier gehabt.*” [He did not long for Vienna, he had a pleasant life here.] Ibid.



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