

Exile in East Asia (1933-1945)

International Conference at Goethe-Institute Japan in Tokyo and Gakushuin University Tokyo, 17th-18th September 2010

Countless works of research into exile in the last few years have concentrated above all upon Jewish exile in Shanghai, whereas exile in Japan still constitutes a desideratum of research into exile, despite some analyses which are in the first instance politically and institutionally orientated. The planned conference will bridge these gaps in research; furthermore exile in East Asia- (that is specifically in China particularly in Shanghai, in the Japanese satellite town of Manchukuo, in Korea and even in Japan itself)- should be viewed in *one* context in order to be able to incorporate overlapping issues which will dispense with works that concentrate solely upon certain regions or towns. The conference will focus upon three main thematic emphases, namely 1. upon the *prevailing parameters of East Asian exiles*, 2. upon *cultural-texts of East Asian exiles* and 3. upon a general *clarification of inter- and/or transcultural understandings of the term 'exile'*.

With reference to 1.: Here would be some possible subjects for the conference as to what constitutes the political, social, cultural, ideological, economical etc. *prevailing parameters of the East Asian exiles*, in the broadest sense:

- the emigration regulations in the areas of Europe controlled by the National Socialist powers and the immigration and/or conditions of transit in the countries of passage and/or immigration;
- the routes of exile; which paths could the refugees from Europe take? What were the regulations concerning journeys and visas?
- the attitude of the Japanese to Jewish refugees; Japanese Antisemitism (eg. the reception of the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion' in Japan; the influence of National Socialist race ideology in Japan) and Japanese Philosemitism (Japanese acts of rescue, the activities of the Jewish communities in Japan eg. in Kobe, or the acts of rescue of individuals as, for example, those of the Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara in Lithuania);
- Exile in Shanghai; Shanghai under Japanese control;
- The exile situation in China in general, (eg. in Manchukuo and in other countries in the region).

With reference to 2.: New studies on exile research are associated with the discussed cultural studies theme of 'cultural hybridity' and creative potential, which itself

developed within these 'cultural instices'. Connected to this is another focal point of the conference which applies to the *cultural- texts of East Asian exiles*; under this heading are literary, philosophical, cultural, and societal- amongst other- texts by exiles to be understood, which therewith refer to the author's East Asian (exile) experiences as well as their living situation in exile, (naturally here, as well as textual cultural products, other forms could be thematised, eg. pictures, drawings, architectural drafts etc); possible topics would be;

-the cultural texts of 'prominent' Japan-Exiles: Karl Löwith, Kurt Singer, Bruno Taut, Klaus Pringsheim Jr. etc., as well as the texts and records of unknown authors;

-cultural achievements of emigrants in East Asia in general, (eg. Jewish musicians; cultural existence of exiles in Shanghai);

- German language newspapers and magazines in Shanghai, (eg. Josef Storfer's 'Gelbe Post'.

With reference to 3.: 'Exile' is often regarded as belonging to 'western mythopoeia' (according to Elisabeth Bronfen); a reflexion upon the (western) exile in *East Asia* naturally should also address the *eastern* mythopoeia of the exiles as well as their cultural-contextual situation, in order to perhaps gain an *inter- as well as trans-cultural understanding of 'Exile'*; possible questions here would be;

- exile in East Asian mythology and literature; exile in a general East Asian cultural context, (eg. the tradition of banishment in Japan and China);

- East Asian exiles during the war years.

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