

## **Verbundkatalog Kalliope**

**Jannings, Lehar Hark Back To Old Triumphs.**

**Mann, Klaus**

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# Jannings, Lehar Hark Back To Old Triumphs

**SALZBURG, May 29 (Delayed)**—This afternoon I called on two internationally-known entertainers, both living in this lovely mountainous area—Emil Jannings, the German stage actor and movie star, and Franz Lehar, the Hungarian composer, author of such celebrated operettas as "The Merry Widow" and "The Land of Smiles."

Jannings' home, situated on the picturesque lake of St. Wolfgang, was not a new place to me: in pre-Hitler days I spent many a weekend there. Jannings used to be a great friend of my family; up to 1933 we saw a lot of him and his clever, attractive wife, formerly known, under the name of Gussy Holl, as one of Berlin's most sophisticated performers.

The beginning of Hitler's Third Reich marked the end of our personal contact. Jannings continued to appear in German films and theatrical productions; he flourished under the Nazi regime as he had flourished under the Weimar Republic.

There could be no connection between us. Our job and ambition was to fight Hitlerism. Jannings belonged to the enemy camp. His place was on the other side of the fence.

After an interval of almost 13 years, I entered his house again, not as a friend but as a correspondent to interview him. I must admit that my feeling and my attitude changed during the course of our conversation. As we talked and remembered, my resentment dwindled, the ice of my distrust and bitterness gradually melted.

Jannings' family didn't seem to have changed much. Ruth Jannings, whom I remembered as a half-grown girl, now was an earnest young lady. As for Emil himself, he has gained some weight and some new wrinkles have been added to his large expressive physiognomy. Gussy, well-preserved and as sparkling as ever, produced an album with photographs.

## YE OLDE ALBUM

There were snapshots taken in Hollywood 13 years ago. That was the time when I first met the Jannings—the time when he fascinated the American public with his performances in films like "The Last Command," "The Patriot," and "The Way of All Flesh."

One of the photos showed a Christmas party at the Jannings' home in 1927. Ernest Lubitsch was there and Garbo—then a newcomer in Hollywood.

The Jannings assured me, again and again, they hated the Nazis. Yet they prospered under Hitler.

"Why didn't you leave? Most of your old friends preferred exile to tyranny. Why did you stay?"

Jannings had plenty of explanations.

"There I was—trapped!" he said. "What could I do? I had to be diplomatic: open resistance would have meant a concentration camp."

"The only propaganda film in which I appeared was 'Ohm Krueger'—and that I did under pressure. When Goebbels first offered me the leading role in that anti-British picture, I refused—whereupon he put it as an order. Don't you see that I had absolutely no choice?"

Jannings says the Nazis suspected him because he was not a party member nor was his racial background "satisfactory"—a Jewish grandmother spoiled the purity of the Jannings' escutcheon.

That is Emil Jannings' story—and I must say it sounded fairly convincing.

## SPOTLIGHT ON LEHAR

I was even more disarmed by Franz Lehar.

It was a ten-mile drive from St. Wolfgang Lake to Bad Ischl—a quaint, old-fashioned spa where the Hungarian "operetta king" has been spending his summers for the past 42 years.

"No politics, please!" the 75-year-old Lehar begged. "I hate to discuss ugly things."

Lehar told us his last work was one of his most ambitious—an opera called "Caraboncias" based on a Hungarian libretto. It was produced in Budapest, just before Hungary "was forced by Hitler into this terrible war."

Lehar clings to the world which he has so often musically described and glorified—the world of the Hapsburg empire—with obstinate nostalgia.

Wherever he goes he will always carry this sunken enchanting world with him.

"I want to visit the States," he told us. "It is my ambition to have at least one of my works produced on Broadway under my own supervision—exactly the way I want it."

Also, some of Lehar's oldest friends are now in the United States, including playwright Franz Molnar.

"Molnar and I have always wanted to collaborate," he said, "but somehow it never worked out. Now I hope he'll finally write a libretto for me."

Molnar and Lehar—that sounds like a promising team! Their combined talents may produce a masterpiece of wit and melody. And no politics, if you please! Politics are ugly now. —Cpl. KLAUS MANN

## END OF THE LUFTWAFFE



Two dejected German pilots mourn the loss of their plane, which cracked up as the war in Europe ended. (Acme)

# Oil Is Key To Tension In Syria-Lebanon Area

What goes on in places like Syria and Lebanon is conventionally "obscure," so far as ordinary newspapers go—and the obscurity is one which news reports find it hard to illuminate. But the Levant, as it is called, is the seacoast of a very important area—and the following table, compiled by Charles A. Grumich of the Associated Press, lays a foundation for understanding some of the events of the week.

The table gives the oil picture, in terms of billions of barrels of known oil reserves and indicates the distribution by nationality of firms controlling these reserves:

| Re's (bill)   | U. S. | Brit.  | Fr.   | D. Kus. |
|---------------|-------|--------|-------|---------|
| Saudi Arabia  | 7     | 0      | 0     | 0       |
| Iraq          | 4     | 1      | 1     | 1       |
| Kuwait        | 4     | 0      | 0     | 0       |
| Iran (Persia) | 8     | 0      | 8     | 0       |
| Qatar         | 1/2   | 1/2    | 1/2   | 1/2     |
| Bahrain       | 1/2   | 1/2    | 0     | 0       |
| TOTALS        | 24    | 12 1/2 | 9 1/2 | 1 1/2   |

All this oil—24 billion barrels of it, and maybe more—is of course still in the ground. It has to be taken out of the ground and, usually after refinement, it has to be shipped. From Iraq to the Mediterranean seacoast, runs at least two oil pipelines: one, through Syria and then through part of Lebanon to the coast; the other, through Trans-Jordan (just behind Palestine) and Palestine to the coast.

## REALLY IMPORTANT

Syria and Lebanon are important for other reasons, but it is probably true that no single reason is quite so outstanding as the fact that they contain transshipment points for much of the oil from the Middle East. Thus what is on the surface a problem concerning the first instance, only the French Provisional Government and its two League of Nations mandates, may have ramifications which run far beyond the interests of the French or the interests of the Syrians and Lebanese.

French policy has undergone some modification in recent years. Representing the French Committee of National Liberation, General Georges Catroux on Dec. 24, 1943, signed an agreement transferring to the Governments of Syria and Lebanon all legislative and administrative functions exercised up to that time by the French. More recently, however, since the replacement of the Committee by the Provisional Government of General Charles de Gaulle, official statements have held that France cannot relinquish claim to the mandates unless the old League so votes, or unless the new world security organization—which will probably not begin to function for a full year—so decides.

## U. S. BRITAIN AGREE

Both Prime Minister Winston Churchill and the Acting U. S. Secretary of State, Joseph Grew, have espoused a policy that claims both full independence for the two nations and a privileged position for France. "We seek both," Mr. Churchill put it, "and we do not believe that they are incompatible."

As to the military situation, it cannot be appraised in terms of troops recently landed by the French in the area. The additional troops, at most, are but a small percentage of the troops already there—and they are by no means exclusively French. And in so many recent instances, actual disorder did not break out until the forces designed "to maintain order" started maintaining it.

It is a fair guess that, no matter what events the next weeks may bring, the weight of all the United Nations on the side of independence for the peoples of the world and on the side of economic fair play in the division of the world's resources will be able to keep the "incidents" from developing into something more serious.