

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

**Concerning: Friedl Ludwig (Siegfried Ludwig) - son of
Paula Ludwig...**

Mann, Erika

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Adresse: Maria-Theresia-Straße 23, 81675 München

E-Mail: monacensia.literaturarchiv@muenchen.de

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Concerning:

Friedl Ludwig (Siegfried Ludwig), -son of Paula Ludwig, eminent German Catholic poet, - born August 10th, 1917. Paula Ludwig left Germany after Hitler's arrival to power and went to her native Austria. She left Austria immediately after Hitler's arrival there. When Friedl ^{her} was of military age he followed his mother into exile in France. Upon request he appeared at the German Consulate in Paris and declared that he'd rather renounce his German citizenship and stand convicted as a deserter, than return to Germany and serve Mr. Hitler in his ^{fight} ~~fight~~ against christian-democratic humanity.

After Hitler's arrival in France Paula Ludwig and her son fled Paris. But, while Paula Ludwig succeeded in reaching Lisbon and, eventually, Rio, Friedl was arrested in Madrid. After many desperate and unsuccessful efforts to liberate her son, Mrs. Ludwig finally sailed for Brasil, hoping that she might be able to save him from there. When Franco was at the point of releasing those prisoners who were in the possession of over-sea-visas, (and Friedl had had a Brazilian visa!) the Brazilian government blocked all visas, -even those already granted.

The danger of Friedl's being delivered to Hitler and being shot as a deserter is imminent.

we are trying to obtain an American "Emergency-Visa" for Friedl Ludwig who happens to be one of the most worthy candidates for this particular kind of visa we have knowledge of. For he is,- a) mortally endangered,- he is,b.) "outstanding",- not only as his "oustanding" mother's only child,- but also and in spite of his youth in his own right. Friedl is a highly gifted sculptor. Furthermore he will be able to make a living here,- if not ~~WHHH~~ on his artistic talent and skill,so certainly on his technical training as an optician.(He has worked with the famous German firm of Zeiss).

We shall be able ^{to furnish} everything necessary for obtaining an emergency-visa for Friedl Ludwig,-save the financial affidavit.One of his American friends is to sign the "sponsor-letter" for Friedl,-while the "biographical scetch" will be signed by Thomas Mann.The financial affidavit need not necessarily come from an American citizen, hut ought to come from some wealthy person.

.....

To whom it may concern :

This is to certify that I know personally Siegfried (called Friedl) Ludwig, German catholic antinazi-refugee, about 23 years of age, at present interned at the concentrationcamp at Miranda de Ebro(Prov.de Burgos)Spain. To my best knowledge I can confirm the following :

Friedl Ludwig, son of the famous German writer Paula Ludwig who although being an Aryen left Germany for good after Hitler came to power, visited the school of the Religious Society of Friends in Holland. Already during his schooltime he showed remarkable artistical capacities which he later developed in studying sculpture and painting in Paris. His works were considered as outstanding by several French critics.

While staying in Paris, being an Aryen, he was summoned by the German authorities to return to Germany in order to comply with his military duties. He, thereupon, went to the German Embassy to declare that he renounced his German citizenship because of his opposition to the Hitler regime. Later on he obtained French travelling papers (titre de voyage). Ever since the Germans considered him as a deserter to be court-martialled.

Before the French armistice Ludwig escaped the invading German troops and tried to reach Portugal via Spain, where he was interned and put at the camp at Miranda. From my own five months' stay in this camp I know that the terrible conditions of internment there constitute a serious danger to the health and life of the prisoners. But this does not even count as compared with the certain death Ludwig faces should he fall into the hands of the Germans.

Ludwig has never carried out any political activities and I know that he considers democracy the only regimen to live in and perform his artistical life-task.

311 East 69th Street, New York City,

25th April 1941

Sworn to by
Winfried Magnus
This 26th day April 1941

W. F. Magnus
Winfried Magnus

SIDNEY LEFKOWITZ
NOTARY PUBLIC, Queens County
Queens Co. Clk's No. 1053 Reg. No. 4783
N.Y. Co. Clk's No. 609 Reg. No. 31374
Commission expires March 30, 1943