

THE FEUCHTWANGER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

at the University of Southern California

Lion and Marta Feuchtwanger's bequest in 1987 to the University of Southern California (USC) substantially enriched the library's holdings. However, the benefits of this donation went beyond enhancing the university's rare book and manuscript collections. The Feuchtwanger's estate provided funding to further develop Feuchtwanger's book collection and acquire related archival materials. Furthermore, the bequest ensured that the memory of the German exile period in Los Angeles would be maintained and fostered by one of the region's major research institutions.

Lion Feuchtwanger and his library

Lion Feuchtwanger (1884–1958) fled Europe during World War II and lived in Los Angeles from 1941 until his death in 1958. He began his literary career as a theater critic and turned his talent to writing plays in the 1910s and 1920s. He first became internationally known, however, for his historical novel "Jud Süß" (*Jew Süss*) published in 1925. During his seventeen years in Southern California, he wrote primarily historical fiction including: "Waffen für Amerika" also called "Die Füchse im Weinberg" (1947/48; *Proud Destiny*), "Goya oder Der arge Weg der Erkenntnis" (1951; *This is the Hour, a Novel about Goya*), "Spanische Ballade" also called "Die Jüdin von Toledo" (1955; *Raquel, the Jewess of Toledo*), and "Jefta und seine Tochter" (1957; *Jephta and his Daughter*).

The Feuchtwanger Memorial Library contains nearly 30,000 volumes. Some 8,000 of the oldest and most rare books are housed on the USC campus, while 20,000 volumes remain on long-term loan at Villa Aurora. Feuchtwanger's library reflects his interests in different historical periods and contains several noteworthy smaller collections of primary and secondary sources focusing on such subjects as Greek and Latin classics, Jewish and biblical history, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, German literature, and German exile literature. The contents of the Feuchtwanger Library, both at USC and at Villa Aurora, have been cataloged and are searchable over the Internet through USC's online catalog, HOMER (<http://library.usc.edu/>). The books and journals at USC are designated with the location "Feuchtwanger" while those in Pacific Palisades are identified with the location "Villa Aurora." For additional information about the Feuchtwanger Memorial Library, please visit our website www.usc.edu/isd/archives/archives/libraries/feuchtwanger.



Fostering Research on German Exile Studies

Marta Feuchtwanger's bequest also supports and promotes the use of the book and archival collections at USC related to German exile studies. Each year numerous graduate students and scholars travel to Southern California to consult materials in the Feuchtwanger Archive or related collections at the university dealing with German émigrés. Many of these researchers have received funding from the Feuchtwanger Memorial Library to offset their travel and housing expenses during their trip to Los Angeles. Since the fall of 1997, thirty-nine researchers have received funding to study various themes in Feuchtwanger's writings, the impact of America on German émigrés' works, and the influence of German exiles on Hollywood, to name just a few of the areas covered. Ongoing support of young and experienced scholars in German exile studies will promote continued research of this significant historic period and help to define its impact on Southern California.

Collaboration with Villa Aurora Foundation

Marta Feuchtwanger's donation to USC included her home in Pacific Palisades, Villa Aurora, and its contents: the extensive book collection, manuscripts, furniture and works of art. With the sale of Villa Aurora to the Circle of Friends of Villa Aurora in 1989 (described in Marianne Heuwagen's article), the University retained ownership of the library, archives, furniture and art work with the Foundation assuming ownership of the building and property. The terms of the sale stipulated that much of Feuchtwanger's library and all of Feuchtwanger's furniture and art work would remain at Villa Aurora on permanent loan. This agreement ensures that visitors to Villa Aurora experience the house looking very similar to how it did during the Feuchtwangers' years at 520 Paseo Miramar. The agreement between USC and Villa Aurora provides a solid foundation for collaboration, recognizing that students and scholars using the Feuchtwanger Library at USC and visitors to Villa Aurora equally benefit from maintaining the house as a living memorial not only to the Feuchtwangers but to the German exile community in Southern California.

Since the opening of Villa Aurora in December 1995, the Feuchtwanger Library and Villa Aurora have co-sponsored a variety of programs and projects. This collaboration has benefited Villa Aurora fellows by providing a venue on the USC campus for lectures and discussions with students and ready access to Feuchtwanger's books and manuscripts. Conversely, the Villa Aurora attracts well-known scholars and intellectuals who may become acquainted with USC's collections thanks to their interaction with the Villa Aurora.

The future holds many promising projects for new areas of collaboration. One currently under discussion is a lecture series to be held at the Feuchtwanger Memorial Library for writers who are fellows at the Villa Aurora.

Marje Schuetze-Coburn