

JACKY STRENZ

Kurt-Schumacher-Str. 2 60311 FRANKFURT am MAIN

Tribute to Oskar and Jenny Grünhut

Franz von Defregger, “Young man with a pipe” – The story behind the painting

Prolog

The small oil painting by Franz von Defregger, purchased November 2015 in an auction in the US, shows the portrait of a young man in a Tyrolean costume, looking stern at the viewer with a pipe between his lips. The original 19th century frame was replaced by a new. The backside of the painting preserved with a strong paper. A paper label referred to the frame maker in Oakland.

After removing the frame a postcard sized photography appeared on the backside of the painting, carefully inserted in a plastic folder, sticking on the board. The photography shows a black and white image of the painting. On its backside in few words the authenticity of the painting is confirmed, dated July 29, 1942. Certified and signed by Friedrich Heinrich Zinckgraf.

According to the auction catalogue, the Defregger painting was part of an estate, including further works by famous artists of the 19th century “Munich School”, such as Gabriel von Max, Albert von Keller, Ludwig von Zumbusch, Mathias Schmid und Eduard Grützner. As well the name of the estate was mentioned in the catalogue: Fred and Annelies G.

Annelies G., nee Mayer passed in early summer 2015, at the age of 95. Both, Ms. G. and her late husband Fred, who already died in 1993 at the age of 85, were born in Munich. 1940 they could emigrate from Germany to the US, where they changed their previous names „Fritz und Anneliese Grünhut“.

Fred G. resp. Fritz Grünhuts parents Oskar und Eugenie Grünhut remained in Munich. In 1942 they were deported with transport II/20 to Theresienstadt. Eugenie Grünhut was murdered in Theresienstadt in September 1942, her husband Mann Oskar in May 1943.

The day of their deportation was July 29, 1942. On the same day Friedrich Heinrich Zinckgraf issued the Certificate of Authenticity of the Defregger painting.

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Oskar and Jenny Grünhut

Oskar Grünhut was born in Regensburg on October 10, 1874. His parents were the merchant Isidor Grünhut and his first wife Unk Grünhut. He had three siblings and seven half siblings resulting from his father`s second marriage after the death of his first wife. The father ran a business for skins and raw leather in Regensburg at St. Georgenplatz 2 which was taken over later on by his younger brother Josef¹.

Throughout 1905, the year he moved to Munich, Oskar Grünhut lived in Regensburg. In Munich he was first employed as a proxy at Fa. Steinharter GmbH, a wholesale export import company for raw leather and wool holding with an office in Corneliusstraße 60 and a warehouse located in Sommerstraße 9². After a short while he acquired the company and continued to operate under the business name „S. Steinharters Nachf. Oskar Grünhut“. In the beginning of his time in Munich he lived in Glockenbachviertel, Hans-Sachs-Straße 10³.

In 1907 Oskar Grünhut married Eugenie (called Jenny) Rosenthal⁴, born September 27, 1887 in Würzburg where she also grew up. In spring 1908 she gave birth to a son, Fritz, the eldest of their three children. The family lived in an “haute bourgeois” apartment in Prinzregentenstraße 12⁵. From the house, destroyed in WW2, one had a view directly overlooking the entrance of the „Englische Garten“, which was located across the street and at this time still was undeveloped. About a quarter of a century later (1933-1937) the „Haus der Kunst“ (House of German Art) was constructed in this place. During 1910/11 the Grünhuts moved into a spacious apartment in Wittelsbacherstraße 20, a corner house with a splendid facade, centrally located on the bank of the river Isar⁶. Like the previous apartment in Prinzregentenstraße this apartment had a telephone connection, which was unusual in the first decades of the 20th century.

From 1928 onward they lived in Herzog-Heinrich-Straße 13, the so-called “Wiesenviertel”, today Ludwigvorstadt⁷.

¹ S. Wittmer, Geschichte der Regensburger Juden zwischen Monarchie und Diktatur (1903-1933), Regensburg 1996, p. 115, 127.

² Münchner Adressbuch 1906.

³ Münchner Adressbuch 1906.

⁴ R. Strätz, Biographisches Handbuch Würzburger Juden 1900-1945, Würzburg 1985, p. 480.

⁵ Münchner Adressbuch 1908.

⁶ Münchner Adressbuch 1910.

⁷ Münchner Adressbuch 1928.

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The Art Collection

Through the years Oskar and Jenny Grünhut gathered a substantial art collection. They were mostly interested in established artists of the 19th century “Munich School”⁸. They acquired major genre scenes by Franz von Defregger, such as „Der Zitherspieler“ (Zither player) or „Bauernbesuch“ (Grower visitation). The collection included works by Eduard Grützner, among the works: „Beim Kartenspiel -ein schwerer Entschluss“ (Card game –a hard descion) and „In der Klosterküche“ (In the convent kitchen). They also owned some of the highly sought after monkey paintings by Gabriel von Max, such as „Salome“ and „Schlechte Zeiten“ (Bad Times). The collection didn’t lack the paintings by „Salon painter“ Albert von Keller, who in Munich wasn’t only well known for his sophisticated life style but also for his salon and high society paintings, portraits of elegant woman and famous actresses. The Grünhuts owned a portrait illustrating Gisela von Wehner, Albert von Keller’s favorite model after the early and tragically death of Keller’s wife Irene⁹.

Expropriation

In 1938 the situation for the “jüdische Reichbürger”(Jewish citizens of the Reich) deteriorated drastically. From end of April onwards they were committed to registering their entire property, all liabilities and real estate to the superior administrative authorities¹⁰. Followed by a second regulation beginning in December 1938 it was no longer possible to dispose freely of property and assets, which was similar to an expropriation. Every disposal had to be approved by the administrative authorities, bonds had to be deposited at the exchanged banks. Owners were forced to sell or liquidate their companies¹¹. The final expropriation of property was accomplished with the regulation of January 1940. Administrative authorities now could proceed real estate transactions independently¹².

⁸ Gabriel von Max, Albert von Keller, Ludwig von Zumbusch, Herrmann Schneider, Friedrich Ortlieb, Gustav Mesmer, Mathias Schmid, August Knoop, Eduard Grützner, Franz von Defregger and Isidoro Grunhut.

⁹ Albert von Keller was married to Irene von Eichthal, great-grandchild of the Royal Bavarian court banker Aaron Elias Seligmann, Freiherr von Eichthal. She was considered as the most beautiful woman and „best match“ of Munich. The „mesalliance“ marriage with Albert von Keller was a scandal, as the couple secretly travelled to England and got married without permission of Irene’s parents. R. Reiser, *Alte Häuser – Große Namen*, München 2019, p. 97ff.

¹⁰ „Verordnung über die Anmeldung des Vermögens von Juden“ vom 26. April 1938, RGBl. I, 1938, p. 414f.

¹¹ „Verordnung über den Einsatz des jüdischen Vermögens“ vom 3. Dezember 1938, RGBl. I, 1938, p. 1709ff.

¹² „Zweite Verordnung zur Durchführung der Verordnung über den Einsatz des jüdischen Vermögens“ vom 18. Januar 1940, RGBl. I, 1940, p. 188f.

To realize the expropriation so-called „Arisierungsstellen“ (Aryanization Departments) were established. NSDAP-

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During the November pogroms 1938 Oskar Grünhut was arrested on November 10 and deported to Dachau concentration camp, where he was interned through December 1st¹³. A document from the police headquarters Munich, dated 1940, reveals that Fritz Grünhut, who lived with his wife Anneliese at the 3rd floor in the house of his parents, was also imprisoned. Cynically, the arrest is described “political”¹⁴.

It is unknown to what extent and under which conditions Oskar Grünhut was still able to operate his company Steinharter Nachf. Oskar Grünhut after 1933. It is proven that in 1938 the company was still listed at the “Verzeichnis der gewerbepolizeilich gemeldeten jüdischen Gewerbetreibenden in München“ (Register Jewish dealers of Munich), dated on February 15, 1938 under No. 498¹⁵.

At least after the November pogroms Oskar Grünhut’s company was forced into closure. The company was acquired by Hans Reinhold¹⁶.

In course of the year 1939 both real estates in Herzog-Heinrich-Straße were expropriated –officially declared as „deposed“- and sold. The new owner, die Bayerische Heimstätte GmbH (Trust office for housing und small housing) moved their premises to the apartment of Oskar and Jenny Grünhut, immediately after they were forced to leave their residence. The real estate in Sommerstraße with the warehouse and the real estate in Columbusstraße with the office were sold 1941/42 by the „Vermögensverwertung München GmbH“ (Aryanization Department)¹⁷.

In December 1938/January 1939 the Gestapo confiscated the art collection of Oskar and Jenny Grünhut¹⁸. Several works by Eduard Grützner and Franz von Defregger were of particular interest to the

Gauleiter Adolf Wagner founded the „Vermögensverwertung München GmbH“, becoming an associate himself. Task of Aryanization Departments were the administrative accompaniment of expropriation of “Jewish Property“ and transfer to „Non-Jews“ (with preference to party members of the NSDAP) supported by revenue authorities, lawyers and notaries.

¹³ During the night of November 9 to November 10 and also during the following days more than 30.000 Jewish men were imprisoned and deported to Concentration camps, where they were interned and abused for weeks or month. Approximately 1000 men were murdered or didn’t survived the internment. Often they got released after the payment of a ransom.

Raphael Gross, November 1938, die Katastrophe vor der Katastrophe, München 2013.

¹⁴ Staatsarchiv München, StAM, Polizeidirektion München (Pol. Dir.) 13132.

¹⁵ Verzeichnis der gewerbepolizeilich gemeldeten jüdischen Gewerbetreibenden in München, Stadtarchiv München (Signatur: Gewerbeamt 177 a), Bayerisches Wirtschaftsarchiv (Sign.: K1, XXI 16 a, 4. Akte), Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv (Sign.: MWi 35). Online verfügbar: rijo.homepage.t-online.de/pdf_2/DE_MU_JU_gewerbe.pdf

¹⁶ Münchner Adressbuch 1939/40.

¹⁷ Stadtarchiv München, Repertorium zum Bestand. Kommunalreferat –Jüdisches Vermögen-, Nr.57, 67, 68.

¹⁸ Beschlagnahme und Sicherstellung von Kunstwerken in München.- Berichte und Protokolle über die Gestapo-Aktion vom Dez. 1938/Jan. 1939. Archivaliensignatur: BArch, B 323/352a; Alt-/Vorsignatur: Aktenzeichen: 457-07; Protokolle und Verzeichnisse der Gestapo über die sichergestellten sowie die in der Wohnung belassenen Gegenstände; Laufzeit: (1938-1939, 1941) 1946-1947.

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„Sonderauftrag Linz“ (Special Commission Linz). „Der Sonderauftrag Linz“ was founded 1939 to compile a representative art collection for the planned „Führermuseum in Linz“ (Leader museum / Linz art gallery). But already since 1935 art works intensively had been purchased, in many cases by support of collaborating galleries.

In the archive of the Galerie Heinemann, Munich Oskar Grünhut's customer file is preserved. In 1916 he had purchased the painting „Beim Kartenspiel -ein schwerer Entschluss“ (Card game –a hard decision) by Eduard Grützner. 1937 an employee of the Galerie Heinemann called Oskar Grünhut and asked if he would sell this particular work, what he rejected. On the file is noted: „Phone call November 3, 1937. Doesn't give away anything“¹⁹. In November 1940 the painting was sold by the „Kameradschaft der Künstler“ (Fellowship of German Artists -an organization founded by the SS member Benno von Arent) to the „Führermuseum Linz“ for 10.000 Reichsmark²⁰. Also for Linz was purchased: „Der Zitherspieler“ by Franz von Defregger²¹ and „In der Klosterküche“ by Eduard Grützner²². Further works were sold to the „Städtische Galerie München“ (today: Lenbachhaus)²³ and the „Oberfinanzpräsidium München“ (Bavarian State Tax Office)²⁴.

In May 1945 US troops discovered the NS art depots, among the depots „Salzbergwerk Altaussee“ and „Kloster Beuerberg“. Since January 1944 the German authorities evacuated art works to protect them against the bombing raids of the allied forces. The discovered depots also included paintings from the collection Grünhut, among the exhibited painting „Junger Mann mit Pfeife“ (Young man with pipe) by Franz von Defregger. In the early 1950ies works of the collection were restituted to the heirs.

July 29, 1942

Fritz and Anneliese Grünhut were able to obtain a visa to emigrate to the USA. After paying the so-called „Reichfluchtsteuer“ (Reich Flight Tax) they received passports and the permission to leave the country. 1940 they were able to emigrate from Germany. Fred Grünhut's parents remained in Munich. The reason why is unknown.

¹⁹ Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nürnberg, Galerie Heinemann, Online Archiv, Kundenkartei.

²⁰ DHM, Berlin, Datenbank, CCP München, Mü-Nr. 9044; Linz-Nr. 2564.

²¹ DHM, Berlin, Datenbank, CCP München, Mü-Nr. 3041; Linz-Nr. 2567.

²² DHM, Berlin, Datenbank, CCP München, Mü-Nr. 9065; Linz-Nr. 2566.

²³ Franz von Defregger, „Bauernbesuch“, DHM, Berlin, Datenbank, CCP München, Mü-Nr. 37594.

²⁴ Eduard Grützner, „Falstaff am Tisch sitzend“, DHM, Berlin, Datenbank, CCP München, Mü-Nr. 36022.

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After Oskar and Jenny Grünhut were forced to leave their home in Herzog-Heinrich-Straße in course of the 1939, they had to move to a so-called „Judenhaus“ (Jews House) in Elisabethstraße²⁵. In April 1942 they had to report to the collection camp (Judenlager Milbertshofen) in Knorrstraße 148. On July 29, 1942 they were deported to Theresienstadt on transport II/20 under the numbers 958 and 959. The train arrived in Theresienstadt on July 30, 1942²⁶. By crossing the Reichgrenze (Border of the Reich) their possession passed to the Deutsche Reich.

On July 29 and 30 Friedrich Heinrich Zinckgraf created the Certificate of Authenticity of the Defregger painting, which is shown in this exhibition.

Jenny Grünhut was murdered on September 1, 1942. Cardiac insufficiency is certified as the „official“ cause of death. Oskar Grünhut was murdered May 11, 1943.

Friedrich Heinrich Zinckgraf

The signatory of the Certificate of Authenticity, Friedrich Heinrich Zinckgraf (1878-1954), was a long-term employee of the established and well-known Galerie Heinemann in Munich, which was operated by Fritz Heinemann and his mother Franziska.

Although since 1935 Jewish art dealers had been expelled from the Reichskulturkammer der bildenden Künste (The Reich Chamber of Culture), Franziska Heinemann was able to carry on with the gallery due to special authorizations, since she brought foreign currency into the country based on export sales. In addition, the gallery was of great significance as the leadership of the cultural politics of the NS regime obtained art works at the gallery, mostly on behalf of Hitler and the „Führermuseum“ in Linz.

At the beginning of the year 1938 Zinckgraf acquired Fritz Heinemann's company shares, who emigrated to Switzerland in May 1938. After the November pogroms Franziska Heinemann was forced to sell the gallery. Zinckgraf took over the company and the extensive stock far below the real value for a total of 500.000,00 Reichsmark financially supported by Reichsminister Hjalmar Schacht²⁷.

Until 1945 Zinckgraf issued certificates for the Reichskulturkammer der bildenden Künste (The Reich Chamber of Culture) operated as an advisor of the „Sonderauftrag Linz“ (Special Commission Linz).

After a “quick” denazification, Friedrich Heinrich Zinckgraf was a committed philatelist and supporter of the philatelic department of Munich's city library receiving great public appreciation.

Zinckgraf died in 1954. Two years after his death a street in Munich was named after him.

²⁵ Münchner Adressbuch 1940.

²⁶ Database Ghetto Theresienstadt: On transport II/20 were 50 woman and men, 39 were murdered, 11 survived.

²⁷ Birgit Jooss, Galerie Heinemann. Die wechselvolle Geschichte einer jüdischen Kunsthandlung zwischen 1872 und 1938. In: G. Ulrich Großmann (Ed.): Anzeiger des Germanischen Nationalmuseums. Nürnberg 2012, p. 69–84, 79ff.

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Epilog

At the beginning of the research I only knew the names, which were mentioned in the auction catalogue. With the removal of each layer the dimension of the abyss extended. It often it wasn't possible to keep the distance which is necessary for an historian. Nevertheless, the attempt was made to write the short documentation as objectively as possible.

I don't have any personal relationship with the Grünhut family. Neither I have contacted the descendants until day.

The research includes much more information and records than listed in this documentation -in respect of Oskar and Jenny Grünhut, who were human beings, not the numbers 958 und 959 on transport II/20 to Theresienstadt on July 29, 1942.

I bow to them.

Jacky Strenz

Frankfurt/Main, November 17, 2017



Image. 1 Eugenie „Jenny“ Grünhut and Oskar Grünhut²⁸

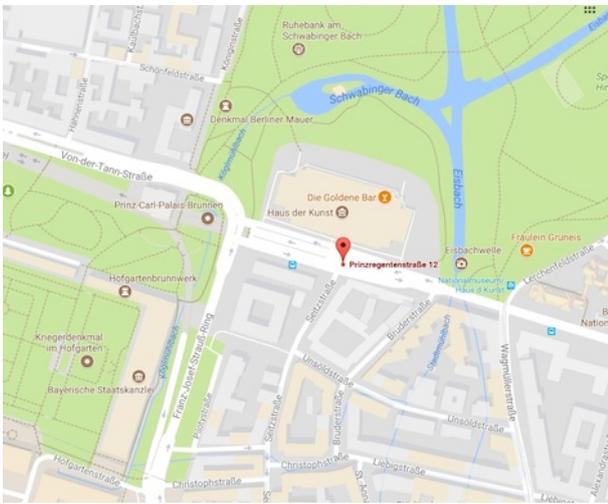


Image. 2 City map- Apartment Prinzregentenstraße 12

Image. 3 Address book Munich 1925



Image 4 Former location of the warehouse in Sommerstraße 9



Image 5 Staircase of the apartment in Wittelsbacherstraße 20



Image 6 View from the balcony of the apartment in Wittelsbacherstraße 20



Image 7 Residence Herzog-Heinrich-Straße 13



Image 8 Knorrstraße 148 – Collection camp (Judenlager Milbertshofen)



Image 9 Gabriel von Max, „Salome“



Image 10 Gabriel von Max, „Schlechte Zeiten“



Image 11 Albert von Keller, „Gisela von Wehner“

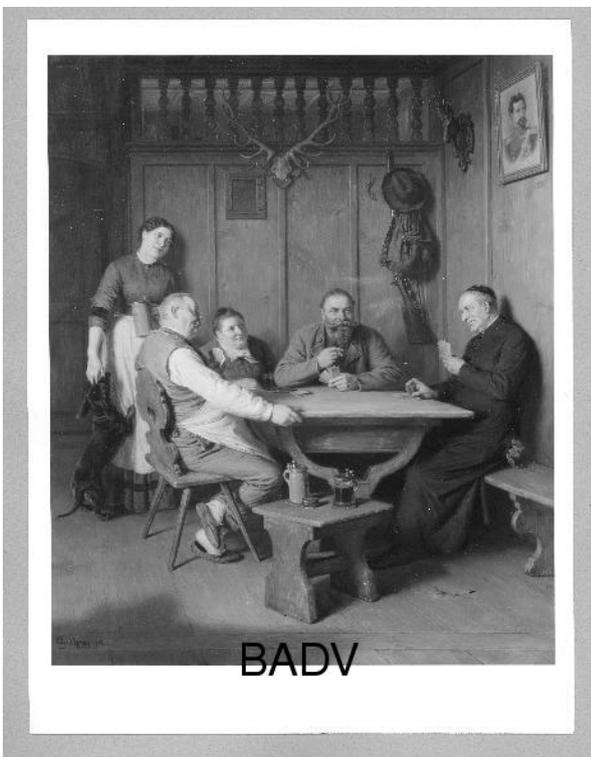


Image 12 Eduard Grützner , „Beim Kartenspiel“ (left)



Image 13 Franz von Defregger, „Der Zitherspieler“ (right)

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------|
| NAME DES KÖNSTLERS: | Grützner, Ed. | NR. | 11402 |
| DARSTELLUNG: | Ein schwieriges Spiel | | |
| VERKAUFT AN | Oskar Grünhut, Berlin. | | |
| AM | 4. VII. 1916. | Uetp = Buch Uetp. - A. Uetp | |
| BEMERKUNGEN: | Kat. 1914 S. 62 8x11.87 angemerkt, gibt nicht her | | |

Image 14 Galerie Heinemann- Customer file of Oskar Grünhut

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| Classification | Property Card Art | Mun. | 9044 Ansee 4264 |
| Author: | Subject: Inn - interior 5 Persons - playing on cards | Presumed Owner: | AE Oskar Grünhut |
| Measurements: | Material: | Inv. No. | Jewish |
| L | W | H | |
| Weight: | 86,5:70 | | |
| Depot possessor: | Arrival Condition | PHOTO | |
| Depot Cat. | good - undamaged | | |
| Identifying Marks: | Description | FOR OFFICE USE: | |
| Hitler 2564 | Ed. Grützner 1912 | Claim No. | |
| 22/6 jüd. Besitze Oskar Grünhut | | Other Photos: | Yes / No |
| | | Neg. No. | |
| | | File No. | |
| | | Movements: | |

Image 15 Eduard Grützner, „Beim Kartenspiel“ - CCP München, Mü-No. 9044; Linz-No. 2564

| | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Classification Rf. | Property Card Art | | MUN. 3041/Presse 002.156 |
| Author: Defregger | Subject: Bavarian peasants | Presumed Owner: Jewish Oskar Brinkhut | |
| Measurements: L W H Weight: middle | Material: canvas | Inv. No. id. acc. to claim Cat. No. | |
| Depot possessor: 4176 | Arrival Condition: sl. - Jam. | PHOTO | |
| Depot Cat. | | | |
| Identifying Marks: L 2567 | Description: | FOR OFFICE USE: Claim No. Other Photos: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Neg. No. File No. Movements: | |
| Bibliography: | | | |

Bundesarchiv, B323/654

Image 16 Franz von Defregger, „Der Zitherspieler“ - CCP München, Mü-No. 3041; Linz-No. 2567.

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Classification Bäuerliche | Property Card Art | | 37594 Mun. 37594 Hombach 292 |
| Author: Defregger Franz | Subject: Bauernbesuche | Presumed Owner: Stadt Galerie A.C. Oskar Brinkhut Bayr. Provinzial-Museum München, Münch. 30 | |
| Measurements: L 72 W H 93,5 Weight: | Material: oil - parcel | Inv. No. Jewish Cat. No. | |
| Depot possessor: Stadt. Galerie München | Arrival Condition: | PHOTO | |
| Depot Cat. | | | |
| Identifying Marks: Stadt. Gal. 5607 | Description: Defregger 1850 | FOR OFFICE USE: Claim No. Other Photos: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Neg. No. File No. Movements: | |
| Bibliography: | | | |

Bundesarchiv, B323/684

Image 17 Franz von Defregger, „Bauernbesuch“ - CCP München, Mü-No. 37594

Münchener Transport *Familienliste* 30.7.1942.

| Nr. | Name Vorname | Stand | Beruf | Geb.Dat. und Ort | St.A. | Letzte Adresse |
|-----|---|--------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Amrann Julius I. | verh. | Schnei- der | 28.8.77 Neustadt/Seale | RA. | München Enorrstr.148 |
| 2 | Amrann Frieda S. | verh. | Hilfs- arb. | 16.11.88 München | RA. | " |
| 3 | Canitzer Dr. Lopold I. | verh. | Zahn- arzt | 5.11.76 München | RA. | " |
| 4 | Canitzer Johanna S. geb.Bick | verh. | o.B. | 6.6.75 München | RA. | " |
| 5 | Hamburger <i>gest</i> Lilja I. <i>11/11.44</i> | verw. | Angest.d. Rechtsv. Suerbach | 11.8.75 | RA. | " |
| 6 | Häber Manrich I. | ledig | o.B. | 16.12.74 München | RA. | " |
| 7 | Hann Ester S. | ledig | o.B. | 20.9.26 Offenburg | RA. | " |
| 8 | Günhut <i>gest</i> Oskar I. <i>11/5.43</i> | verh. | Kauf- mann | 19.10.74 Regensburg | RA. | " |
| 9 | Günhut Eugenie S. geb.Rosenthal | verh. | Hilfs- arb. | 24.9.87 Würzburg | RA. | " |
| 10 | Fänkel Benedikt Nikan | verw. | o.B. | 27.10.71 München | RA. | <i>gest = 23/5.44</i> |
| 11 | Hier <i>gest</i> Arakana I. <i>11/2.44</i> | verh. | Bankier | 4.2.75 Fischbach | RA. | " |
| 12 | Hier Seline S. geb.Marx | verh. | o.B. | 3.6.85 Frankfurt a.M. | RA. | " |
| 13 | Vorchheimer Bernhard I. | ledig | o.B. | 21.6.88 Thüngen | PA. | " |
| 14 | Michals Max I. | gesch. | Kunst- händler | 3.1.80 Maldern | RA. | Adelheid- str.10 |
| 15 | Herold Elise S. geb.Rosenthal | verw. | Hilfs- arb. | 4.1.80 Brüssel | RA. | Ainmiller- str.17 |
| 16 | Rosenthal Alice S. | ledig | Hilfs- arb. | 21.11.84 Frankfurt a.M. | RA. | <i>2358EB</i> |
| 17 | Muesnug Martha S. geb.Weinchenk | verw. | Hilfs- arb. | 18.3.87 Regensburg | RA. | Viktorias- str.9 |
| 18 | Schneidhuber Ida S. geb.Wassermann | gesch. | o.B. | 7.6.92 München | RA. str.30 | Elisabeth- str.30 |
| 19 | Gutmann Ida S. | ledig | o.B. | 31.12.72 Ichenhausen | RA. | Enorrstr.148 |
| 20 | Hess Frieda S. | ledig | o.B. | 20.1.74 München | RA. | " |

(70)

Image 18 List with the names of Transport II/20 compiled on the arrival in Theresienstadt July 30, 1942