

Löwenstein-Forschungsverein

Verein zur Förderung der Erforschung
des Lebenswerkes und der Lebensgeschichte
der Gebrüder Löwenstein e.V.

Vorstand



Presseinformation des Löwenstein-Forschungsvereins e.V.
vom 04. November 2009

Vereinigung Jüdischer Flüchtlinge in England würdigt die Arbeit des Löwenstein-Forschungsvereins und der Stadt Mössingen

Mehr als drei Monate nach dem Besuch der Nachkommen von Artur und Felix Löwenstein, den Begründern der Pausa AG, in Mössingen erfährt der Löwenstein-Forschungsverein eine besondere Würdigung. Die britische „Association of Jewish Refugees“ (AJR) berichtet in der Novemberausgabe ihres Journals über den Empfang der Familie Löwenstein in der Mössinger Langgassturnhalle. Doris Angel, die Tochter von Felix Löwenstein, und Harold Livingston, der Sohn von Artur Löwenstein, veröffentlichen im AJR-Journal einen persönlichen Reisebericht in englischer Sprache. Darin heißt es unter anderem:

„In late 2008 Doris Angel, daughter of Felix, and Harold Livingston, son of Artur, received a letter from the ‚Löwenstein Research Association‘. This proved to be a group of local citizens who realised that our fathers had put the town of Mössingen on the artistic map when in 1919 they established Pausa, developing it into a world-renowned manufacturer of modern fabrics for the interior design industries and introducing Bauhaus-Style design in their woven and printed fabrics. ... The Löwenstein Research Association wishing to honour the contribution Artur and Felix made to the town, had traced us.“

(„Im späteren Verlauf des Jahres 2008 erhielten Doris Angel, Tochter von Felix, und Harold Livingston, Sohn von Artur, einen Brief des ‚Löwenstein-Forschungsverein‘. Es stellte sich heraus, dass es sich dabei um eine Gruppe von Bürgerinnen und Bürgern handelte, die erkannt haben, dass unsere Väter die Stadt Mössingen auf die künstlerische Landkarte hoben als sie im Jahr 1919 die Pausa gründeten. Unsere Väter entwickelten die Pausa zu einem weltweit bekannten Hersteller von modernen Stoffen für die Innenausstattung und sie führten den Bauhausstil und dessen Design in die gewebte und gedruckte Stoffherstellung ein. ... Der Löwenstein-Forschungsverein, der Artur und Felix für ihre geleisteten Beiträge zur Entwicklung der Stadt würdigen und ehren wollten, hatte uns gesucht und gefunden.“)

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Doris Angel und Harold Livingston würdigen das öffentliche Eingeständnis der Stadt, dass vor 73 Jahren in Mössingen Unrecht geschah, und die öffentliche Entschuldigung des Oberbürgermeister gegenüber den Nachkommen.

„Es ist für uns und unsere Arbeit eine besondere Anerkennung, dass die britische Vereinigung jüdischer Flüchtlinge über unsere Arbeit berichtet“, unterstreicht Irene Scherer, Vorsitzende des Löwenstein-Forschungsvereins in Mössingen.

Eine elektronische Kopie des Artikels im AJR-Journal ist zu finden auf der WebSite von www.initiative-loewensteinverein.de

Recognition of a wrong done - a remarkable visit to Mössingen

In 1936 the brothers Artur and Felix Löwenstein left Germany following the sale, enforced by the Nazis, of their textile business Mechanische Weberei Pausa. In late 2008 Doris Angel, daughter of Felix, and Harold Livingston, son of Artur, received a letter from the 'Löwenstein Research Association'. This proved to be a group of local citizens who realised that our fathers had put the town of Mössingen on the artistic map when in 1919 they established Pausa, developing it into a world-renowned manufacturer of modern fabrics for the interior design industries and introducing Bauhaus-style design to their woven and printed fabrics. Pausa's reputation was confirmed by a commendation at the World Fair in Barcelona in 1929.

The Löwenstein Research Association, wishing to honour the contribution Artur and Felix had made to the town, had traced us. They had enrolled the support of Mössingen's mayor and town council, who invited us to Mössingen at their expense.

In July 2009 we flew to Germany, accompanied by Harold's daughter Jacqui Cowley and his nephew Ronnie Jacob, son of the late Lilo Löwenstein, daughter of Artur, and Ann Angel and Tony Paxton, Doris's daughter and son-in-law. We were joined by Hamburg cousins Sandra and Cathy Lustig.

Our stay in Mössingen included a tour of the former Pausa sites, a formal reception by the mayor, at which we signed the town's 'Golden Book', a trip to our parental home in Stuttgart, a dialogue with local schoolchildren, a



Mayor Werner Fifka (left), Harold Livingston, Doris Angel: A new square in Mössingen is to be named after the Löwenstein family

rendering of the 'Pausa Symphony', and the launch of the Löwenstein Research Association programme. Dr Jan Bloch, son of Ernst and Karola Bloch, also gave a talk connecting the Bauhaus design culture with other aspects of contemporary political thinking. Our visit featured prominently in the local media.

The original Pausa factory was pulled down in the 1980s and is now the site of a state-of-the-art home for senior citizens. Outside is a plaque commemorating Pausa and stating that it was owned by the 'Jewish brothers Löwenstein'. The newer factory closed only in 2001 and part of it is to be preserved as a museum. It contains thousands of fabrics printed in the Pausa/Bauhaus style.

The highlight of our visit was a reception at the old school gym, attended by hundreds of the town's citizens including former Pausa employees. Speeches were made by Werner Fifka, the mayor, Lothar Frick, director of Civic Education in Baden-Württemberg, and Irene Scherer,

head of the Löwenstein Research Association. The mayor said, among other things:

When we think back today in this special place, right here in the gym of the old school, where the well-known Mössingen strike against Hitler began, we must appreciate what the Löwenstein family accomplished before 1933. We must think about the injustice which [they] and their families had to contend with under Nazi rule. It is time to talk about the wrong that was done in our town at that time. The Nazis chased the Löwenstein brothers out of Mössingen. This was not right. It was a crime. We cannot change the facts of what took place in those dark times. I ask you to accept our apology for all the suffering that you and your mothers and fathers had to go through. I do hope you will accept this apology. Arthur and Felix Löwenstein are part of the history of Mössingen and we should keep that in our minds forever.

The mayor announced that a new town square was to be named Löwenstein-Platz and that the town's library would be renamed the Löwenstein Library.

We both responded with speeches and presented a book of designs, which had left Germany with Doris's family in the 1930s. We were given a standing ovation.

It wasn't easy for the mayor to say what he did. He said it with humility. You can't undo the past, but the recognition of the wrong that had been done was for us absolutely essential. This, together with the dedication of the Löwenstein Research Association and the honour shown our family by local citizens, made the visit quite remarkable.

Doris Angel
Harold Livingston

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