THE JEWISH CEMETERY
WEISSENSEE, BERLIN

Guide to selected Sites



JEWISH COMMUNITY
OF BERLIN

INFORMATION

We should like to draw the attention of visitors to the cemetery to the following points:

Gentlemen should cover their heads. A kippah may be borrowed at the entrance to the cemetery.

Please remember during your visit that each dead person is present in his/her grave, as it says in the Song of Solomon 5,2: "I sleep, but my heart waketh." Thus everything that honours the dead is allowed, and everything that disturbs the rest of the dead is forbidden. Please do not step on the graves and do not sit on the gravestones, for these places must not be desecrated, and the graves do belong to those who are buried in them.

The tour of all the selected gravesites takes about four hours, but can be shortened at any time to suit.

You can find all information on the cemetery and the tour via Internet or smartphone at:

www.jewish-cemeteries-berlin.eu

www.jewish-cemeteries-berlin.mobi

OPENING TIMES:

Summer:	01.04. – 30.09.
Mon – Thu	7:30 – 17:00
Fri	7:30 – 14:30
Sun	8:00 – 17:00
Winter:	01.10. – 31.03.
Mon – Thu	7:30 – 16:00
Fri	7:30 – 14:30
Sun	8:00 – 16:00

Closed on Shabbat (Saturday) and jewish holidays

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Preface

Dear Visitors,

When in 1671 the Elector Friedrich Wilhelm allowed Jews to settle in the March of Brandenburg, Mordechai Model (also known as Model Riess) moved with his own and 49 other prosperous Jewish families from Vienna to Berlin. For the first time since the violent expulsion of the Jewish community in 1573 there was Jewish life in Berlin. In today's Grosse Hamburger Strasse Mordechai Model acquired a piece of land measuring 0.59 of a hectare to be used by the community for a graveyard. Not until 11 years later, in 1712, was the community in Berlin allowed to build a synagogue.

In the 18th century the community continued to grow. Many Jewish people moved to Berlin from Silesia, which had become a province of Prussia following the three Silesian Wars. Like many other immigrants they hoped to find a better life there. In 1827 the cemetery had to be closed – because it was too small – and a new cemetery laid out outside the city, in what is now the Schönhauser Allee in Prenzlauer Berg. The new cemetery was almost ten times larger than the old one.

The Industrial Revolution and the radical economic and social changes it brought about in Prussia led to a further Jewish inflow, especially from Poland, which had been partitioned by Prussia, Russia and Austria. By 1860 Berlin's Jewish Community had grown to well over twenty-eight thousand members. Many of them, including the Liebermann family, were prominent entrepreneurs during the enormous economic rise of Prussia. In time the cemetery at Schönhauser Allee was also too small, so that Berlin's Jewish Community had to acquire more land for a cemetery in Weissensee in 1880. By 1933 the Jewish community had 170,000 members and the need for cemetery space continued to grow. More land was bought around the area of today's cemetery. During the Nazi period the Berlin City Council forced the community to sell it land that did not yet form part of the cemetery for much less than its market value. Since there was little left of Berlin's Jewish community after 1945, the restoration of the land was not requested. Today the cemetery at Weissensee, with its 42 hectares, is the largest in Europe. There used to be larger Jewish cemeteries in Europe, such

as that of Salonika in Greece, which was largely destroyed during the Nazi occupation of 1941-45.

Jewish cemeteries are places of life and of eternity (Beth Olam). This is reflected in the extraordinary architecture of the cemeteries and the tombs they contain. The Weissensee Jewish cemetery in particular, with its 115,000 graves, indicates the former greatness of the Jewish community in Berlin. Many well-known Jewish entrepreneurs, such as Julius Baruch Berger or Benno Orenstein, as well as scientists, scholars and artists found their final resting place there. The Shoah, however, largely extinguished Jewish life in Berlin. But these graves can still tell us a lot about the importance of Jewish life for this city.

We have therefore prepared for you a small selection of interesting personalities who can tell you something of the varied and exciting history of the Jewish community. With the aid of these graves we want to familiarize you with the cemeteries, so that you will soon learn to find your way about in them.

We hope that in the course of your walks in these three unique cemeteries you will have many interesting encounters with Jewish history, the Jewish present and the Jewish future.

The Board and Managing Director
of the Jewish Community of Berlin

Historic Gardens Conservation and UNESCO World Heritage Prospects for Weissensee

Dr. Klaus-Henning v. Krosigk (Berlin Monument Authority)

With its 240 cemeteries Berlin probably has more graveyards than any other major European city. This number includes the listed historic Jewish cemeteries at Grosse Hamburger Strasse, Wittlicher Strasse (Adass Jisroel), Schönhauser Allee, and Weissensee.

The "good place" at Herbert-Baum Strasse in Weissensee is not only Berlin's largest Jewish cemetery, it is also happily still in use. Despite desecration and war damage in the Nazi period, it is one of the few Jewish cemeteries that largely retains its original layout and subsequent development over the years. The Jewish community in Berlin continued to exist, so the cemetery remained under its traditional care and was thus preserved and maintained. Since it opened in 1880 the cemetery has provided over 115,000 Jewish people with space for their final resting place, impressively documenting the history of what used to be Germany's largest Jewish community from that time up to the present.

Thus the right of the departed to eternal rest, the inviolability of each grave for all time, still defines the appearance of the Jewish cemetery at Weissensee.

For centuries the equality of individuals in death was symbolized by erecting gravestones which generally differed little from one another in size and shape. This tradition was followed by Germany's orthodox Jewish communities into the 20th century, whereas from the early 19th century onwards the liberal Jewish community in Berlin increasingly abandoned this custom. The progressive integration of German Jews in social life over the course of the past century found expression at Weissensee in the adoption of some features of Christian and municipal cemeteries. For this reason and because of the inviolability of every grave Weissensee continues to present an authentic and vivid picture of what in other cemeteries can only be understood today if one has exact knowledge of their historical development: "The House of the Dead" is a mirror of social and societal structures. Here it also reflects the history of a people both striving to preserve their traditions as well as seeking social integration and state recognition.

Because of the preservation of all the graves and the adoption of new trends in contemporary cemetery art, also as an expression of liberalization, this resting place is an illuminating document on the development of German-Jewish cemetery culture in the 19th and 20th centuries. The high demands made of cemetery culture by the prosperous Jewish middle class roughly from 1888 to 1945 which were realized by the best architects, sculptors and specialized artisans of the time, were of high quality and artistically discriminating.

Today, however, the original structure of the cemetery with its largely survivng historical avenues is covered over by a dense growth of trees within the burial fields. This vegetation has proliferated since the beginning of the Shoah when the extensive work of tending and maintaining the graves and cemetery as a whole ceased.

The words spoken by the rabbinical assessor, Dr. Frankl, at the consecration of the Weissensee Jewish Cemetery on 9 September 1880 – "The race that honours its dead honours itself" – express the inalienable essence of Jewish cemetery culture and they remain unchanged today as both a commitment and an obligation. The honouring of the dead must be understood not only as a spiritual and moral endeavour, but also as a concrete process which is accompanied by preservation of the most valuable material testimonials of a centuries-old culture of sepulchral traditions.

We are all aware that gravestones, with their unique spectrum of religious and often secular adornments as well as by virtue of their artistic statements, are more than just sites of individual remembrance, reflection, and mourning. At the same time they reveal moral and social aspirations as well as the constantly changing notions of the hereafter and the meaning of faith. Thus Beth ha Kewaroth – the House of Graves, as Jewish cemeteries are often called – is always a binding material legacy that reaches beyond religious and cultural aspirations.

Since 2006 Weissensee has benefitted from a federal funding programme for saving "cultural monuments of value to the nation" and, since 2009, also from a special fund of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media. And now we also have the "Special Germany Programme", which came into effect in 2009 and is co-financed by the State of Berlin to the tune of millions of euros, to fund the restoration of the enclosure of the cemetery for a total length of more than one kilometre over the next two years.

Furthermore, the Berlin Senate, in its resolution No. 3990/2006 of 14 November 2006, has approved preparation of the application procedure for placing the Weissensee Jewish Cemetery on the Tentative List of the Federal Republic of Germany for the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Berlin Senate's Cultural Affairs Department and the Heritage Division of the Urban Development Department have been charged with these preparations.

We now must hope for the success of the project to have the unique Weissensee Jewish Cemetery added to the sites proposed for inclusion in the World Heritage List so that it will one day be under UNESCO protection. This would ensure upkeep, maintenance and preservation on a lasting basis for a unique document of the history of humanity.

Berlin, in September 2011

On the History of Jewish Cemeteries in Berlin

Wolfgang Gottschalk

The history of Berlin's Jewish cemeteries is inseparably bound up not only with the history of Berlin itself, but also with that of Brandenburg, Prussia and ultimately Germany. The changing fate of Jewish burial grounds over 800 years, from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, is an indicator of how successive rulers observed the commandments of tolerance and humanity, of the extent to which they permitted religious freedom, and of how far they treated Jewish citizens as the equals of German citizens. They are testimonials to a history of assimilation and self-assertion, tolerance and persecution, annihilation and starting anew. An expression of the close links between Jewish and Berlin history is that Jewish citizens have also found a final resting place in many other Berlin cemeteries. Not only in the cemetery of the Israelite Synagogue Community Adass Jisroel in Weissensee – laid out in 1878 and not included in the present guide – but also in Protestant, Catholic and municipal burial grounds one can find the graves of well-known figures who came from Jewish families. Thus, for example, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Rahel Varnhagen von Ense lie buried in the Dreifaltigkeit (Trinity) cemetery at Hallesches Tor; Emil and Walther Rathenau in the Wuhlheide Forest Cemetery; Paul Singer and Rosa Luxemburg in the Central Cemetery in Friedrichsfelde; and Anna Seghers, Paul Dessau and Hanns Eisler in the Dorotheenstadt Cemetery at Chausseestrasse.

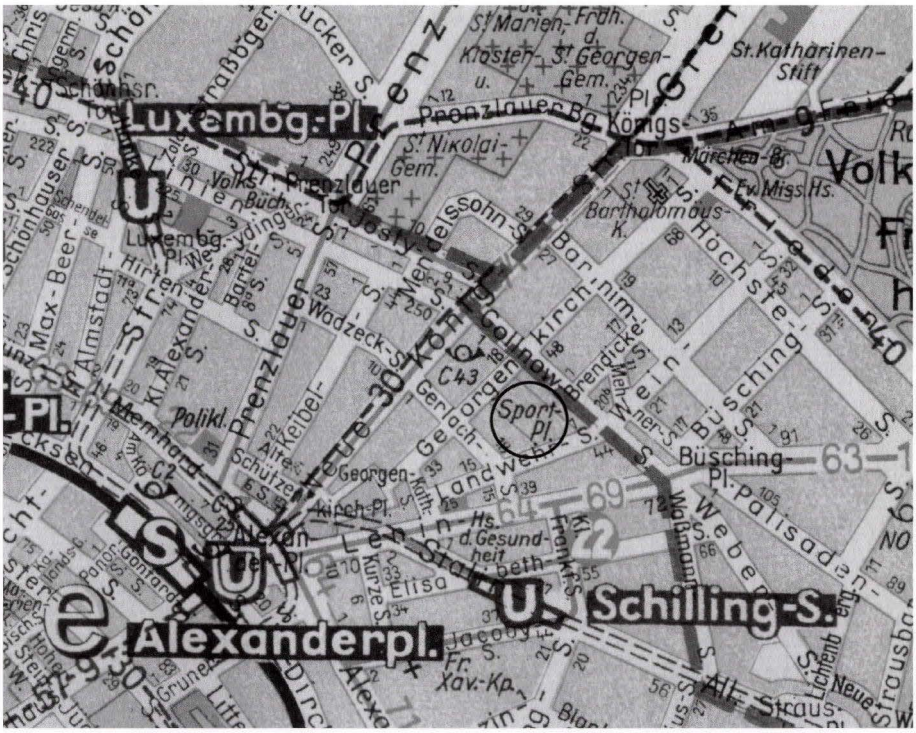
Former Jewish kiever (burial ground) in Spandau

The first documentary mention of Jewish inhabitants of Spandau in the area now comprising Greater Berlin dates from 1307. They lived in the Jüdenstrasse (1938-1994: Kinkelstrasse), at the southern end of which there was probably a synagogue. It has also been proved that there was a cemetery there by 1324. The exact location of this Jewish kiever is not known. In the course of archaeological excavations undertaken in the vicinity of the Spandau Citadel since 1955 65 gravestones and five fragments with Hebrew inscriptions from the period 1244 to 1474 have been discovered in the masonry of the Gothic Palace. It is conjectured that they originate from three burial grounds, two for the Spandau Jews and one for the Berlin Jews, which existed until the expulsion of the Jews from the Margraviate of Brandenburg by Elector Joachim I in 1510 at the latest. Some of the gravestones have found a new home in the Jewish cemetery at Heerstrasse.

Supposed former Jewish cemetery at Gollnowstrasse

Of the first burial ground for the Jewish families living in Berlin certainly since 1295, but probably since 1244, there is no clear evidence to date. There is, however, reason to suppose that this "good place" was laid out in the 13th century far outside the then city limits, at the Georgentor (since 1701 Königstor). This cemetery, located at the corner of Gollnow- and Landwehrstrasse – of which the latter was called Judengasse until well into the 19th century – is assumed to have been closed about 1573 as a direct result of the persecution of the Jews that began in 1571 under the Elector Johann Georg. The pogroms reached their cruel zenith in 1573 with the execution in front of the Berlin

Schloss of the Master of the Electoral Mint and financial advisor Lippold on trumped-up charges. There followed – as in 1510 under Joachim I – an expulsion of the Jews from the Margraviate of Brandenburg. It is supposed that both the mortal remains of Lippold and 38 other Jews, who had been publicly burned before the gates of Berlin in 1510 for alleged desecration of the host and other unproven crimes, were buried in the cemetery at Gollnowstrasse, an event of which a commemorative stone – placed behind the block of flats at today's Mollstrasse 11 in 1935 and renewed in 1988 – acts as a reminder.



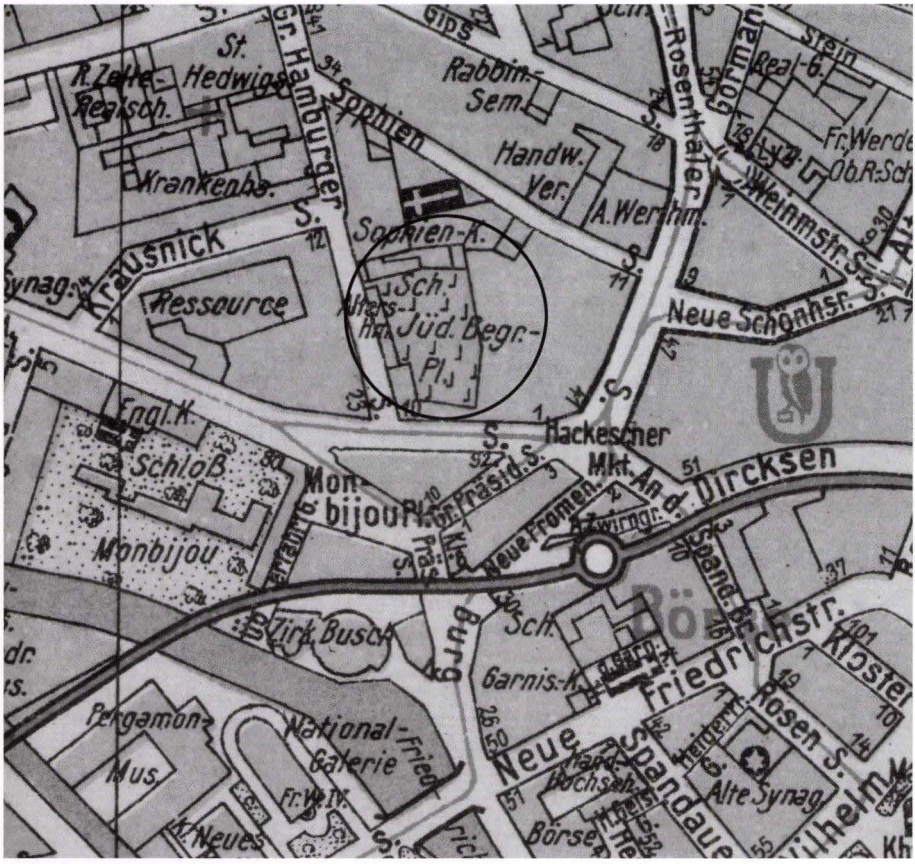
Presumed Jewish cemetery at the Gollnowstrasse, detail of Berlin street map, 1959

Jewish Cemetery at Grosse Hamburger Strasse

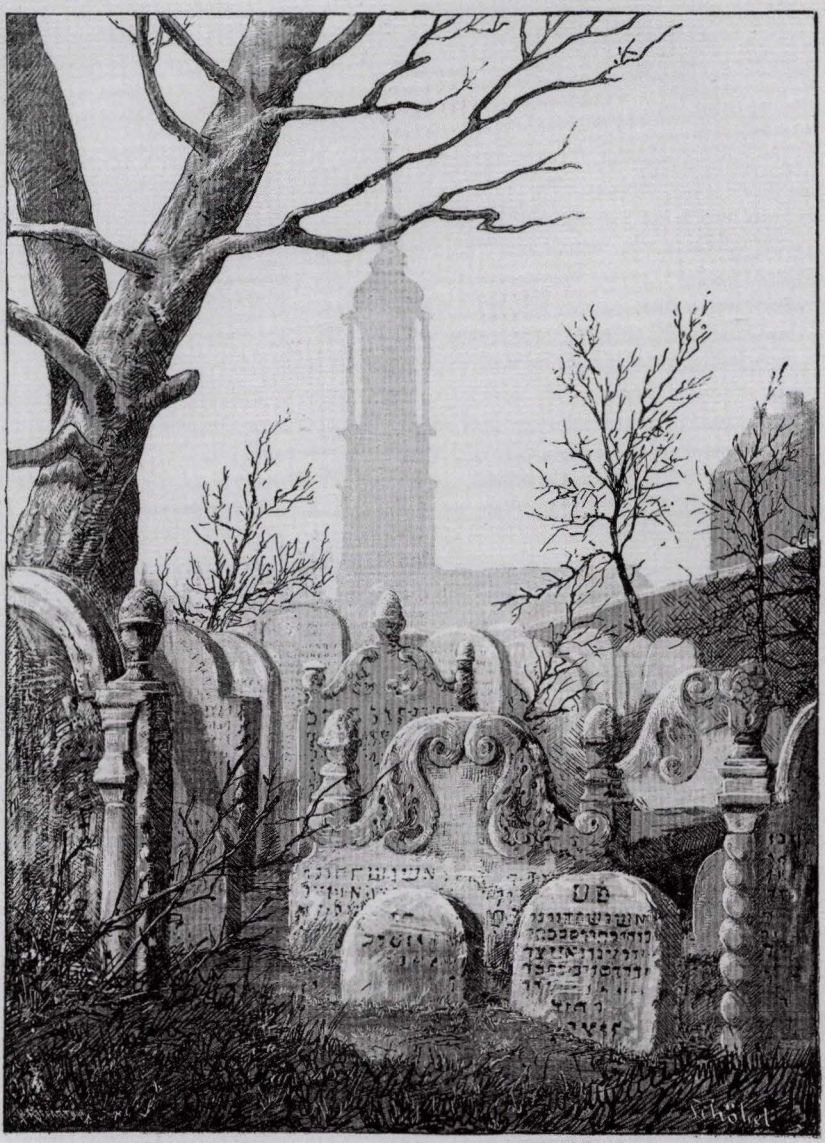
The Berlin Jewish Community, founded after the edict of admission issued by the Great Elector (Friedrich Wilhelm) on 21 May 1671, laid out a burial ground in the Rosenthaler Quarter in front of the Spandauer Tor, at Grosse Hamburger Strasse 26, near the Oranienburger Strasse. Today it is the oldest cemetery in the inner city which is recognizable as such. A granite plaque at the southern boundary wall to the Oranienburger Strasse, where the entrance used to be, tells us that the first person to be buried here, in 1672, was one Gumpericht Jechiel Aschkenasi.

Between then and 1827 some 12,000 mortals found their last resting place in this cemetery of just 0.59 hectares. They were not only members of Berlin's Jewish community, but also those of Spandau, Nauen, Kremmen, Zehdenick and Oranienburg. The most famous person buried here is the philosopher Moses Mendelssohn (1729-1786), whose gravestone has had to be restored four times, the last was undertaken in 1990. In the first third of the 20th century there were still about 2,800 burial sites to be found in the cemetery, including those of Veitel Heine Ephraim (1703-1775), jeweller, coin dealer, and Frederick the Great's court banker. The ruthless destruction and desecration of the tomb in 1943/44 on the orders of the Gestapo was the darkest chapter: a slit trench was cut through the centre of the site and the sides reinforced with historic gravestones, after the remains of the dead had been thrown out.

In the years 2007/2008 large-scale renovation work was undertaken to restore the cemetery – which in GDR times had been converted into a park – to its original historical function and appearance as a burial ground laid out in closely knit rows.



Jewish cemetery at the Grosse Hamburger Strasse, detail of Berlin street map, c. 1930



Grabsteine auf dem älteſten Kirchhofe der Jüdiſchen Gemeinde zu Berlin.
Originalzeichnung von Georg Schöbel.

Gravestones in the Jewish cemetery at the Grosse Hamburger Strasse, woodcut after a drawing by Georg Schöbel, c. 1891

Jewish Cemetery at Schönhauser Allee

Following an edict of the Royal government in 1817 banning the creation of new cemeteries within the city walls, the Jewish community had a new, five-hectare burial ground laid out at Schönhauser Tor on severe geometric lines by Berlin's City Architect, Friedrich Wilhelm Langerhans, in the years 1824-1827. To the left of the main entrance at Schönhauser Allee were the hall of mourning – a Neo-Romanesque brick building designed by the community's architect, Johann Hoeniger, about 1895 – the mortuary, and an ancillary building. They replaced the more modest Neoclassical structures of Langerhans. All that remains of the main portal today are the round-arched side entrance on the right and the double grille of the central entrance. In the entrance area commemorative plaques dating from the 1970s remind visitors of the fate of the cemetery. In 2005, in place of the ceremonial hall which was destroyed during the Second World War, a lapidarium was set up containing 60 gravestones whose original sites could not be ascertained, as well as illustrated charts on Jewish cemetery culture and Jewish mourning rituals.

In the north-west part we find a grated shaft with a commemorative plaque bearing the following inscription: *"Because they did not desire the death of others they met their own death / At the end of the year 1944 opponents of the war hid here. / They were discovered by the SS / hanged from the trees / and buried in a shallow grave."*

On several occasions the cemetery has been the target of anti-Semitic desecrations. In 1988, for example, a total of 222 tombs were overturned – some of them damaged beyond repair – by six youths.

Jewish Cemetery at Weissensee

Opened in 1880, the Jewish Cemetery at Weissensee is not only the most extensive inner-city burial ground in Berlin, but also the largest Jewish cemetery in Europe in terms of area. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 it is once again the main burial place of Berlin's Jewish Community. However, it owes its unique significance not only to this fact and its artistically remarkable collection of tombs, but above all to its close links to the fate of Berlin's Jewish citizens. Buried in Weissensee Cemetery are men and women who made distinguished contributions to medicine, the natural sciences, the humanities, the fine arts, literature, journalism, technology, industry, commerce, and municipal politics. Here too, however, we find the graves of those who, threatened with deportation to a Nazi extermination camp, took their own lives. Commemorative plaques remind us of Jewish concentration camp victims and a memorial stone of the members of the resistance group around the young Jewish communist Herbert Baum, who were executed in 1942/43. In Weissensee, as in scarcely any other Berlin cemetery, one can follow the development of sepulchral art from 1880 to about 1930 on the basis of a wide range of examples, some of them of exceptional quality. There are well-known – and some very elaborate – tombs designed by the architects August Orth, Johannes Otzen, Erdmann & Spindler, Lachmann & Zauber, Bruno Schmitz, Alfred Messel, Ludwig Hoffmann, Martin Dülfer, Fritz Schumacher and Walter Gropius, and the sculptors Gustav Eberlein, Fritz Klimsch, Hugo Lederer and Hans Dammann.

By 1875 the membership of Berlin's Jewish Community had risen to about 65,000. As the cemetery at Schönhauser Allee was full, a new burial ground had to be found. The Jewish religion's requirement that the dead have a right to eternal rest means – in contrast to the other denominational and municipal cemeteries – the inviolability of grave sites and stones. As a result there was a great need for burial spaces. Consequently, in the years 1880-1905, the Jewish community acquired in the then colony of Neu-Weissensee, an autonomous rural community, an area of more than 40 hectares including considerable reserve spaces. This allowed for the anticipated further development, for in 1905 there were almost 100,000 adherents of the Mosaic faith living in Berlin or its immediate suburbs – more than four fifths of all Jews living in the province of Brandenburg.

In the spring of 1878 the Berlin Jewish Community announced a competition among the members of the Berlin Architects' Association for the design of its new cemetery. The total costs of the project were not to exceed 150,000 marks. The contestants had to submit a site plan plus designs for the mortuary, the ceremonial hall, the service building, and a massive enclosure with entrance gate and porter's lodge. The panel of judges consisted of four members of the Jewish community and three from the Architects' Association, including Friedrich Hitzig, who had built the Berlin Stock Exchange. Of the 25 designs submitted three were short-listed as "relatively best", namely those of Matthias von Holst, Bernhard Kühn and Hugo Licht. From the run-off between these three architects Licht emerged the winner, although his plans were far over budget. As a result of alterations made during construction – the hall of mourning was made higher and hence statelier – the costs rose by a further 50,000 to a total of 230,000 marks.

Hugo Licht, who as city architect of Leipzig from 1879 to 1906 did much to shape the face of that city, had the architectural elements of the new Jewish cemetery built of yellow brick in forms reminiscent of the Early Italian Renaissance with some Romanesque and Baroque details in red sandstone. Hugo Licht was also responsible for the division of the cemetery – consecrated on 9 September 1880 – into 120 burial sections/grave fields. The severe geometric layout is softened by variously shaped ornamental squares, from which main and secondary paths radiate and fan out, thus creating charming views. This design goes a long way to creating the magnificent and spacious overall impression of the cemetery grounds, which are one kilometre long and about 500 metres wide.

By the mid-1920s Berlin's Jewish community had around 170,000 members, making it the largest in Germany. This numerical strength was not without its effects: more and more reserve spaces of the Weissensee cemetery had to be used; already in 1910 a second imposing hall of mourning had been built, the ruins of which following its wartime destruction were not removed until 1980. In 1926 no fewer than 200 staff were employed in looking after the extensive garden sections and 72,000 burial plots. The efficient horticultural department had five large greenhouses. To ensure the strict observance of ritual regulations during funerals 67 officials and auxiliary staff – crypt

keepers, pallbearers and tahara women for washing the corpses – were responsible, working under the supervision of an 18-man Cemetery Commission.

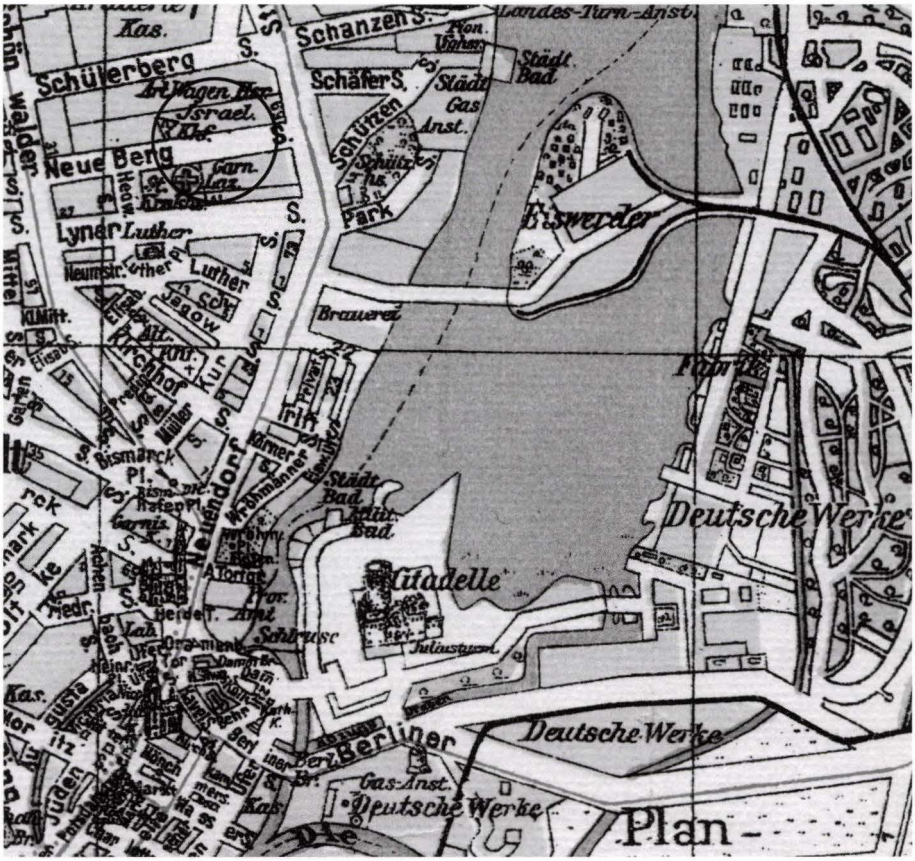
Although the cemetery remained largely untouched during the Nazi dictatorship and so was able occasionally to serve as a sanctuary for fugitives, the Second World War caused devastating bomb damage: nearly 4,000 graves were totally destroyed. After 1945 the worst of the damage was gradually repaired, albeit without any concerted effort at restoration being undertaken. In the early 1980s, after the cemetery with its 115,000 burial plots had been declared a "National Cultural Monument" by the then GDR government, a new cemetery wall was built along the Indira-Gandhi-Strasse. The Weissensee Cemetery was also the object of anti-Semitic outrages: after several desecrations in the GDR period, in 1990, for example 12 gravestones were tipped over; in 1999 it was 103 gravestones, and fires were started as well.

Heerstrasse Jewish Cemetery

The laying out of Berlin's newest Jewish cemetery at Heerstrasse in Charlottenburg was a direct consequence of political developments after the Second World War and the division of Berlin after 1948. As the main Weissensee Cemetery was now virtually inaccessible for West Berlin's Jews, a decision was taken in 1954 to lay out a new cemetery to the south of the Heerstrasse, not far from Scholzplatz. This burial ground, now measuring 3.4 hectares, has seen some 5,000 funerals to date. Among those buried here are the actor Ernst Deutsch (1890-1969), the entertainer and host Hans Rosenthal (1925-1987), the SPD politician and city elder, Jeanette Wolff (1888-1976), and the chief cantor of the community from 1947 to 2000, Estrongo Nachama (1918-2000). The tomb of Heinz Galinski (1912-1992), Jewish community chairman (1949-1992) and honorary citizen of Berlin, was seriously damaged in a bomb attack in 1998. In a grove of honour ashes from the Auschwitz extermination camp have been buried, of which symbolic graves and a granite slab dating from 1984 are a reminder.

Former Jewish cemetery in Spandau

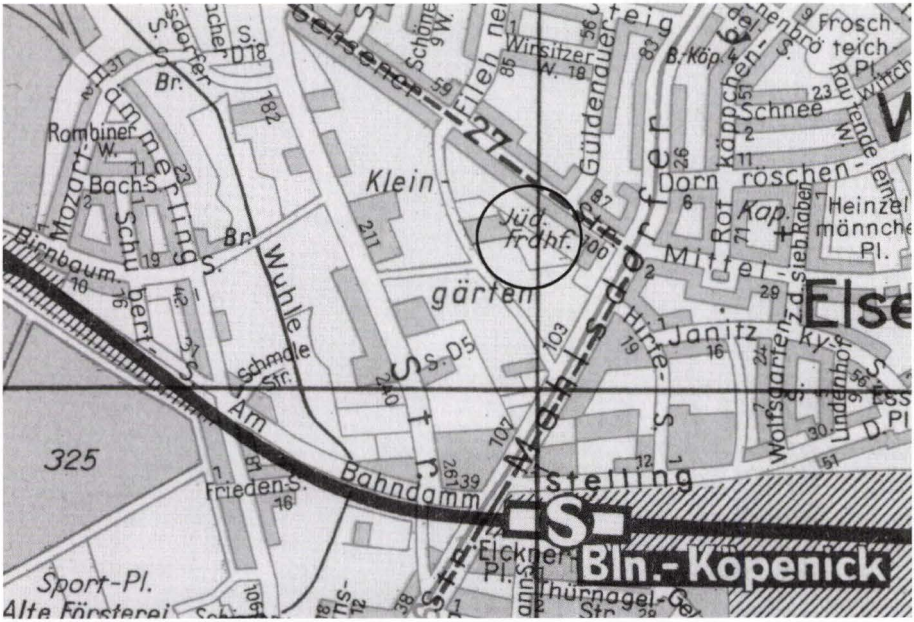
In conclusion we may mention the no longer extant Jewish cemetery in Spandau-Neustadt. Consecrated in 1865 at Neue Bergstrasse, it had to be closed in 1940 – against the wishes of the community – because it lay on "military fiscal land" and was in the way of Nazi development plans "vital to the war effort". There was at least one transfer of about 250 graves to the cemetery of the Adass Jisroel orthodox community at Wittlicher Strasse in Weissensee, where some gravestones were also re-erected. The Wehrmacht put up buildings for the army ordnance depot in the Spandau cemetery. To date there has been no sign of commemoration of this historic site.



Jewish cemetery at the Neue Bergstrasse in Spandau, detail of Berlin street map, c. 1930

Former Jewish cemetery in Köpenick

Equally sad is the fate of the cemetery of Köpenick's Jewish community: Occupying scarcely more than a hectare, it lay in the triangular area at the corner of Gehsener Strasse/ Güldenauer Weg. Opened in 1887, it was destroyed by the Nazis in 1938. In the early 1960s the last remnants were cleared away to make room for a car park and green space. A few graves were saved, however. In 1986 31 simple stones bearing dates of death between 1887 and 1937 found a worthy new home in the Weissensee Jewish Cemetery on the site of the second hall of mourning, which had been destroyed in the war. In 2005 a commemorative plaque in memory of the Köpenick Jewish Cemetery was put up in the courtyard of the house at Gehsener Strasse 78.



Cemetery of the Jewish Community in Köpenick, detail of Berlin street map, 1959

Guide to selected Sites

The Jewish Cemetery at Weissensee is a unique ensemble of sepulchral art waiting to be discovered – from simple, traditional sandstone steles to stately family plots, from Neo-Classicism to the New Objectivity, all epochs of the plastic arts are represented here. The cemetery also testifies uniquely to the important share of German Judaism in the life and development of Germany in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The selection of the 81 sites to be visited in the course of the tour was based on various considerations. The 16 Graves of Honour of the State of Berlin were selected as showing the contribution of Berlin's Jewish citizens to the common welfare in past centuries. Other sites have been included in the tour because the fates of the individuals and/or families involved is of particular interest.

The Weissensee cemetery is also a kind of museum of sepulchral art between 1880 and 1939. Various specimens of tomb design – some of them of extraordinarily high quality – by such architects as August Orth, Bruno Schmitz, Alfred Messel, Ludwig Hoffmann and Walter Gropius, are to be seen at the selected sites.

In making the selection the conservationist aspect was also taken into account: some sites feature tomb ensembles that have been restored to their original state thanks to private donations and federal and state funding since the 1990s.

The authors:

Regina Borgmann (r.b.)
Dr. Jörg Kuhn (j.k.)
Fiona Laudamus (f.l.)



1 Memorial

In 1880 not one of the members of Berlin's Jewish community would ever have imagined that just seventy years later, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, 23 April 1950, a ceremony would be held at the cemetery entrance to unveil the first memorial to the six million Jews who were murdered during the Nazi era. The speakers at the ceremony were Julius Meyer, the then Chairman of the Jewish Community in Berlin, and Heinz Galinski, who at that time was active in the Oranienburger Strasse, later becoming its chairman. Cantor Estrongo Nachama sang the "El mole Rachamim", and the preacher Martin Riesenburger said the Kaddish, the prayer in remembrance of the dead.

Much had to be done before the memorial could be raised to the victims. As early as 22 March 1947 the Jewish Community in Berlin made the first application to the City Council of Greater Berlin. However, the application deferred due to lack of material, whereupon the Jewish Community in Berlin offered stones from the devastated synagogue in the Fasanenstrasse.

Finally, on 11 October 1953, a memorial stone was unveiled in the circular flower bed in the entrance area of the cemetery. Arranged in a circle lie the memorial plaques bearing the names of the 20 largest concentration and extermination camps engraved in stone. On 27 January 1992 an urn containing the ashes of Jews murdered in Auschwitz was sunk in the ground before the memorial stone. The bearer of this grim legacy was the current director of the Auschwitz Museum, Jerzy Wróblewski.

(r.b.)



2

Louis Lewandowski

Composer, music director

Born 3 April 1821 in Wreschen (Posen) (now Września, Poland)

Died 4 February 1894 in Berlin

Field A 1, Row of Honour



At the age of twelve Lewandowski became a choirboy in the synagogue in the Heidereutergasse. His family in Posen was very poor, and the boy had to go to Berlin to earn his own living. Due to his fine voice he became a musical assistant to the Jewish Community, which also ensured that he could attend a grammar school. He also attracted the attention of Alexander Mendelssohn, a grandson of Moses Mendelssohn, who recognized his musical talent and paid for his violin and piano lessons. In the Prussia of that time a university education was not something that Jews could take for granted. However, an outstanding result in the admission examination and Mendelssohn's recommendation resulted in Lewandowski becoming the first Jew to matriculate at the Berlin Academy of Arts. This marked the beginning of Lewandowski's success in composing and performing music. In 1865, to mark the 25th anniversary of his service as choirmaster of the Jewish community, he was appointed Royal Music Director. In 1866 the new synagogue in the Oranienburger Strasse was consecrated and an organ installed. Up till then musical instruments in synagogues had not been customary. Now Lewandowski was able to rehearse and perform his works to an instrumental accompaniment. His songs, cantatas, symphonies and psalms were sung by choirs to an organ accompaniment. For 26 years he was senior cantor and, at the age of nearly 70, he was appointed a professor to honour his 50 years on the staff of the Academy of Arts. Lewandowski's compositions were not only popular in Germany's liberal communities but all over the world, and are performed to this day.

(r.b.)



3

Moritz Steinschneider

Scholar, Orientalist, bibliographer

Born 30 March 1816 in Prossnitz (Moravia) (now Prostějov, Czech Republic)

Died 24 January 1907 in Berlin

Field A 1, Row of Honour



His father's house had been a meeting place for many scholars. As an educator, the latter had accumulated a large body of Talmudic knowledge in addition to his secular education. Moritz Steinschneider studied philosophy, aesthetics, pedagogy and modern languages in Prague. He studied for three years in Vienna, until further residence was denied him as a Jew. He then went to Leipzig, where he continued his study of Arabic. He tried to translate the Koran into Hebrew and wrote articles on Jewish and Arabic literature. In Berlin he studied history until 1842, when he returned to Prague, where he became a teacher at an exclusive girls' school. Later he found himself back in Berlin, where he was able to pass his rector's examination in 1847 and acquire Prussian citizenship. In 1850 he was awarded the degree of doctor of philosophy by Leipzig University. In 1859 he became a lecturer at the Veitel Heine Ephraim Institute and from 1869 to 1890 he was rector of the girls' school in the Jewish community. His scholarly works covered the fields of philosophy, medicine, mathematics and astronomy. He achieved worldwide fame in the field of Jewish bibliography, of which he is considered to be the founder, publishing the specialist periodical *Hebräische Bibliographie*. Because of his confession he frequently suffered negative discrimination, but he never lost his sense of humour. When at the age of almost 80 he was run over by a horse and cart, he replied to friends who expressed their sympathy with the sarcastic comment: "Oh, well, I have been passed over so often in my life that being run over doesn't really bother me."

(r.b.)



4

Karl Emil Franzos

Writer, journalist

Born 25 October 1848 in Czortków (Galicia) (now Chortkiv, Ukraine)

Died 28 January 1904 in Berlin

Field A 1, Row of Honour



Franzos grew up in Galicia as the son of a liberal Jewish doctor, while his mother came from Odessa. He attended the German *Gymnasium* (grammar school) in Czernowitz, the capital of Bukovina. There he encountered the ethnic complexity of the Hapsburg Empire, as is reflected in his short stories and novels, which deal with East European Jewry and the tensions between Poles, Germans and Jews. In his novel *Der Pojaz* (The Clown) he describes the period of his childhood. In 1867 he passed his school leaving certificate with distinction. He wanted to study classical philology, but was denied a grant by reason of his Jewish origin. He was admitted to Vienna University to study law, but after two semesters he switched to the University of Graz. Franzos was a German nationalist by conviction and belonged to student duelling fraternities only to leave them again out of disappointment at their anti-Semitic bias. Although he received his doctorate in law, he devoted himself increasingly to journalism and writing. He began by writing travel reports and columns, later going on to do pieces on cultural history. His newspaper articles were collected in book form and published with great success under the title *Aus Halb-Asien* (From Half of Asia). In 1877 he married the writer Ottilie Benedikt, with whom he lived in Vienna and moved to Berlin in 1887. Franzos wrote more than 20 books. He also collected money for his Jewish coreligionists in Russia. He lived amidst the constant conflict between "Germanness" (*Deutschtum*) and Judaism and was often the victim of anti-Semitic hostility. After his death his widow administered his literary and intellectual estate, which she donated to the City of Vienna in 1926.

(r.b.)



5

Max Hirsch

Social-reform politician, writer, trade unionist

Born 30 December 1832 in Halberstadt (Sachsen-Anhalt)

Died 26 June 1905 in Bad Homburg

Field A 1, Row of Honour



Max Hirsch was born in Halberstadt as the son of a glove maker. In the late 1830s the family moved to Magdeburg. He studied philosophy, law and political science in Tübingen, Heidelberg and Berlin, gained his doctorate in political economy, and travelled in France and North Africa. He founded the periodical *Der Fortschritt* (Progress) and settled down in Magdeburg as a book publisher in 1863. In 1868, together with Franz Duncker and Hermann Schulze-Delitzsch, he founded the "Gewerkvereine" [a kind of moderate trade union, tr.], which played a certain role in the social welfare policies of the German Reich and came to be known as the Hirsch-Dunckersche Gewerkvereine. The aim of the *Gewerkvereine* was to create a social reform which would balance the interests and provide for cooperation between employers and employees, a harmony between labour and capital. The idea was to improve the social position of the workers within the capitalist system. The *Vereine* had only a slight influence on the working-class movement, however. In 1933 all trade unions were crushed. Hirsch was a co-founder of the Humboldt Academy, which strove to bring education to wide sections of the population. He was a deputy to the parliament of the North German Confederation and to the German Reichstag. Hirsch was also active as chairman of the early peace movement, chairman of the German Peace Society, and as a member of the German Group at the Interparliamentary Peace Conference.

(r.b.)



6

Martin Riesenburger

Cantor, religious instructor, community rabbi

Born 14 May 1896 in Berlin

Died 14 April 1965 in Berlin

Field A 1, Row of Honour



Born the son of a draper in Berlin, from an early age Riesenburger wanted to become a rabbi. His mother came from a pious East European Jewish family. Even before he started school he was taking piano lessons and was later able to attend the Stern Conservatory. After the end of the First World War he was composing while earning his living as a piano teacher and also acting as a cantor and religious instructor. He studied at the Higher Institute for Jewish Studies. In 1925 he married the Meissen-born Klara Linke (1901-1999). After Hitler's seizure of power in 1933 Riesenburger entered the service of Berlin's Jewish Community, assuming the function of pastor in the Jewish Old People's Home in the Grosse Hamburger Strasse until 10 June 1943, when it was liquidated by the Nazis, after which his work was confined to the cemetery at Weissensee. He wrote in his memoirs that the staff of the cemetery had to perform a twofold task: to bury with dignity and reverence the large number of Jewish people who took their own lives and all the other dear departed, and to preserve the sacred cultural heritage which had accumulated in the cemetery for the new future that was about to dawn. During this time he regularly held services in his office. After the liberation from Nazism he took part in the reconstruction of the Berlin Jewish community. He preached in the Fränkelufer and Rykestrasse synagogues. After the division of the communities in 1953 Riesenburger devoted himself to building up an autonomous community in the eastern part of Berlin. In 1961 he was appointed provincial rabbi and received an honorary doctorate.

(r.b.)



7

Louis Grünbaum

Brass-founder, first burial in the cemetery

Born 6 February 1820 in Berlin

Died 19 September 1880 in Berlin

Field A 1, Row 1

The cemetery was solemnly consecrated in the presence of invited guests on 9 September 1880. The first burial took place on 22 September 1880. The dead man was a brass-founder, Louis Grünbaum, who died aged only 60 of a fracture of the neck of the femur and of diabetes in the Jewish Old People's Home at 26 Grosse Hamburger Strasse. In the funeral documents it is noted that Grünbaum also acted as a building superintendent and inspector in the Home. His gravestone in the traditional form of a stele is the oldest in the cemetery. Carved on the side of the stone is a clear "1", marking the first burial in the cemetery.

Each gravestone receives a number, a system that continues up to the present day. The result is a chronological registration of the dead. The cemetery has 130 sections and 130 ground plans, in which a number is entered for each deceased person. Thus the identity of any dead person in any grave can be precisely determined, even if no gravestone was laid or the inscriptions are no longer legible. As of today we have over 115,000 deceased persons. Apart from the chronological registration, the dead are also registered alphabetically. As if by a miracle the entire cemetery archive from 1880 onwards has been preserved in full. Heavily damaged by fungal decay and beetles which slowly ate up the paper,the files were disintegrating into their component parts. In the years 1992 to 1994 the restoration and transfer to film of the 900 volumes and files of the comprehensive funeral archive took place. The work was financed by the German Lottery Distribution Trust Fund.

(r.b.)



8

Theodor Wolff

Writer, editor-in-chief, politician

Born 2 August 1868 in Berlin

Died 23 September 1943 in Berlin

Field A 1, Row 10, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



Theodor Wolff was one of the most influential personalities in the Reich capital, known as a commentator for his unfailing sense of justice and his defence of the rights of minorities. On 30 May 1933 Nazi students committed his writings to the flames. This marked the end of the political and professional career of one of the best-known defenders of the Weimar Republic and freedom of speech in Germany. Wolff had served a commercial apprenticeship with his cousin, Rudolf Mosse, the well-known publisher. He wrote various columns and, after years of practical training, went to Paris as the correspondent of the *Berliner Tageblatt*, of which he finally became editor-in-chief in 1906. During the First World War he came into conflict with the military authorities because of his liberal democratic views, which made him oppose the policies of annexation and excessive nationalism. After the outbreak of the revolution of 1918 he was a co-founder of the German Democratic Party, which he left in 1926. In his youth he had written novels and plays, having been one of the founding fathers of the "Freie Bühne" in 1889, which operated as a theatrical association in Berlin. When Hitler seized power Wolff wrote an article denouncing the dictatorship. After the Reichstag fire in 1933 Wolff fled to Switzerland, only to be refused a residence permit. He moved to Nice where he was arrested ten years later and handed over to the Germans. For months the 75-year-old was shunted from one camp and prison to another until his health broke down and he died in the Jewish hospital. The "Theodor Wolff Prize" has been awarded to outstanding German journalists since 1962.

(r.b.)



9

Martin Philippson

Historian, lecturer, charity worker

Born 27 June 1846 in Magdeburg

Died 2 August 1916 in Berlin

Field G 1, Row of Honour



Born the son of a rabbi in Magdeburg, Philippson also went to school there. He studied history at the University of Bonn, then switched to Berlin where he took his doctorate. He served as a volunteer in the Franco-Prussian War. In 1871 he qualified as a history lecturer in Bonn and was appointed Extraordinary Professor four years later. In 1878 he received an appointment at the University of Brussels. There he became a member of the Central Commission of Jews in Belgium. In Germany he was denied a professorial chair because of his Jewish origin. But he also ran into difficulties in Brussels, causing him to resign from all his offices in 1891 and return to Germany. He settled in Berlin and became a freelance writer. He was a co-founder of the Society for the Promotion of the Historiography of Judaism and a member of the Executive Council of the Association of Jewish Historical and Literary Societies. He was also largely instrumental in the creation of a general archive of German Jewry. Philippson was the founder of the Jewish Workers' Colony in Weissensee. The estate owner Ludwig Meyer, who represented the German-Israelite Community League, donated the land for the workers' colony in what is now Smetanastrasse, which borders on the cemetery. It was intended to provide a home for the unemployed and homeless, mendicants and released convicts, who were willing to work. There they were given paid employment and lodgings. Philippson also founded several homes, such as the home for retarded children in Beelitz. He wrote about the history of the Jewish people in works covering the period from the 16th century to the present. He was married to Ida Ephraim (1855-1940), who was buried beside him.

(r.b.)



10

Hermann Cohen

Philosopher, Neo-Kantian, Privy Councillor

Born 4 July 1842 in Coswig (Sachsen-Anhalt)

Died 4 April 1918 in Berlin

Field G 1, Row of Honour



Hermann Cohen began his studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary at Breslau, continued to study at the university there, and later in Berlin. In 1865 he took his doctorate in philosophy in Halle, and in 1875 he was appointed Extraordinary Professor and in 1876 full Professor in Marburg. Cohen was one of the most important teachers of philosophy in Germany. At the University of Marburg he founded what was known as the Marburg school of Neo-Kantianism, which worked to promote the revival and further development of the philosophy of Immanuel Kant. Its main representatives besides Cohen were the German philosopher and pedagogue Paul Natorp (1854-1924) and the philosophy professor Ernst Cassirer (1874-1945). They took the view that philosophy cannot resort to a reality existing independently of cognition, but that being is determined by cognition itself. In 1913 after retiring from Marburg University Cohen went to Berlin's Institute for Jewish Studies, where he taught until his death in 1918. Cohen's philosophy laid the foundations for scientific and technical civilization. He became famous in specialist circles with his first book *Kants Theorie der Erfahrung* (*Kant's Theory of Experience*; 1871), which was followed by many important works. On his gravesite there is a sarcophagus bearing the following inscription:

Plato's radiant world and Kant's illumined depths
Meet in thee, Great One, with the harmony of the Muse,
From the prophetic fire came the blazing torch:
Mortal things we hold here hidden, burn brighter, O Fire!

(r.b.)



11

Micha Josef Bin-Gorion (Berdyczewski)

Writer, collector of fairy tales

Born 7 August 1865 in Tula (Ukraine)

Died 18 November 1921 in Berlin

Field G 1, Row of Honour



Born the son of a rabbi in Medschybisch, Bin-Gorion became a writer. His stories are mainly set in the shtetl, the life of which he describes as follows: "Life flowed peacefully along in my home town of Tula, which lay on the river Tulish in the beautiful southern Ukraine. The three hundred and twenty houses distributed along twenty streets around the market place contained everything that belongs to a perfect Jewish community: a rabbi and two shochetim (ritual slaughterers), a cantor and several prayer house attendants, a doctor and a barber, almoners for the living, and a brotherhood to care for the dead. Furthermore there were two prayer houses, an old bath house, an infirmary, and classrooms for the children and infants." In 1890 Bin-Gorion began to study in Breslau, Berlin and Bern, from which last university he obtained a doctorate in philosophy in 1896 with a thesis *On the Connection between Ethics and Aesthetics*. In Berlin he got to know a dentist called Rahel Ramberg (1879-1955), whom he married in 1902. She gave up her job to become his translator – as a gifted Hebrew scholar she supported his literary activities. After Bin-Gorion's death she and her son Emanuel continued the publication of his writings. Although his main work was *Die Sagen der Juden* (The Legends of the Jews), he was best known as a publisher of Jewish fairy tales, legends and myths. He wrote short stories about the life of East European Jews, which reflect the relationship in that milieu between tradition and modern enlightenment in the last quarter of the 19th century.

(r.b.)



12

Oscar-Heinrich Cassel

Lawyer, municipal councillor, honorary citizen

Born 4 June 1849 in Schwetz (West Prussia) (now Świecie, Poland)

Died 8 August 1923 in Berlin

Field G 1, Row of Honour, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



After coming to Berlin at the age of ten and attending the Graues Kloster grammar school, Cassel studied law and administration at Berlin University. He later acted as a lawyer for the Berlin *Handwerkerverein* (Artisans' Association) and in 1888 was elected to the City Council. From 1903 to 1919 he was a member of the Prussian parliament. Cassel made important contributions to such areas of municipal administration as budgetary matters; transport and tramcars; culture and education; and caring for the poor. On the 25th anniversary of his becoming a municipal councillor he was given the freedom of the city. He was a founding member of the Aid Association of German Jews for Poor and Needy Jews in Eastern Europe. He campaigned for equal rights for Jewish judges and teachers. Cassel drew particular attention to himself by his opposition to the "Jewish Census" in the First World War. Because of Emperor William II's statement to the effect that he would no longer recognize any parties but only Germans, the equal status of Jews and Gentiles seemed to be assured. The Central Association of German Citizens of Jewish Faith called upon the German Jews to join their brother Germans in the struggle and report for war service *masse*. They saw this as an opportunity to distinguish themselves by particular bravery. But when after two years of war things took a turn for the worse, with many war victims and serious supply problems, the old anti-Semitism flared up again. The Jews were accused of being cowards and shirkers. Thus began the search for scapegoats for Germany's inevitable defeat in the war.

(r.b.)



13

Lesser Ury

Painter, graphic artist, Impressionist

Born 7 November 1861 in Birnbaum (Posen)
(now Międzychód, Poland)

Died 18 October 1931 in Berlin

Field G 1, Row of Honour, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



Ury was a restless, up-and-coming artist who was never satisfied with himself, although he was one of the most important painters of the 20th century. Martin Buber, the well-known Jewish religious philosopher once said that it was impossible to describe his pictures in words: "You have to see his works – there is no other way that leads to him." After the death of his father his mother moved to Berlin, where Ury completed the secondary modern school (*Realschule*). The family's situation was modest, and Ury had to work as an apprentice in a ready-made clothes shop. Without asking permission he switched to the Academy of Art. There he was disappointed to find that his magical way with colours did not meet with approval. He went to Brussels where he lived in great poverty, often going hungry but becoming ever more absorbed in his art. He came to the notice of the director of the Academy, won first prize for his work in in the life drawing class, and got his own studio. Up until then he had mainly worked on biblical themes, but now he went to Paris in search of new inspiration. He painted street scenes, night scenes and flower studies, In 1882 he settled down in the Belgian village of Volluvet and worked on open-air and tonal painting, which works are among the early works of Impressionism. In 1886 he moved permanently to Berlin, as he felt a special bond with that bustling metropolis. No less a figure than Adolph Menzel recognized his great gifts and sponsored him. Some of his works were destroyed by the Nazis, but most were saved by private collectors.

(r.b.)



14

Leo Baeck

Rabbi, religious historian

Born 23 May 1873 in Lissa (Posen) (now Leszno, Poland)

Died 2 November 1956 in London

Epitaph only, field G 1, Row of Honour



Leo Baeck's father, the rabbi Dr. phil. Samuel Baeck, was awarded the Prussian Order of the Red Eagle for his great services to the state and the community. Leo Baeck, by contrast, did not even want to return to Germany as a corpse. And so he is only mentioned in a commemorative inscription on the gravestone of his wife Natalie Baeck, née Hamburger (1878-1937). He himself was buried in the Golders Green Jewish Cemetery in London. Leo Baeck had begun by studying at the conservative Jewish Theological Seminary in Breslau and later at the liberal Institute for Jewish Studies in Berlin, where he received his rabbinical certificate in 1897. He went on to take a doctorate and acted as a rabbi in Oppeln, Düsseldorf and, from 1912 onwards, in Berlin. He was appointed a lecturer at the Institute for Jewish Studies. His academic work was in the field of philosophy of religion and religious history. Baeck made a name for himself as a representative of liberal Judaism with his main work *Das Wesen des Judentums* (The Essence of Judaism). In the First World War he served at the front as a Jewish chaplain. In the Berlin Jewish community he held numerous functions, striving to achieve a religious and cultural understanding between Jews and Christians in Germany. In 1933 he was appointed president of the Reich Deputation of German Jews. Baeck did not emigrate, but was able to help others flee to safety abroad. After 1945 he became President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and, in 1955, President of the Leo Baeck Institute which is named in his honour.

(r.b.)



15

Herbert Baum

Youth leader, forced labourer, resistance fighter

Born 10 February 1912 in Berlin

Died 11 June 1942 in Berlin

Field P 1, Place of Honour, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



Together with his wife Marianne and their friends, a married couple called Kochmann, Herbert Baum began to organize resistance. All four, born in 1912, had known each other since their schooldays. Like many of their friends they were of Jewish origin. They were left-wing opponents of the Nazis; they were Jews who had suffered discrimination and persecution. In 1941 all Jews had to wear the Star of David on their clothing. In order to escape the daily threat of deportation they went underground. In May 1942 an anti-Communist and anti-Semitic exhibition called *The Soviet Paradise* was mounted in Berlin's Lustgarten. Herbert Baum and his group organized a fire bomb attack that went wrong. A few days later five Jews who had been actively involved were betrayed and caught, whereupon 500 Jews were arrested in Berlin. Of these 250 were shot and 250 deported to camps. It was announced that further measures would be taken if more Jews were to take part in acts of sabotage. Of the Baum group more than 20 members were sentenced to death. Herbert Baum was tortured to death. Bright red placards were put up on 229 advertising columns announcing that those arrested had been sentenced to death by the Volksgerichtshof for "preparing to commit high treason and aiding and abetting the enemy". The executions took place in the Plötzensee prison and the bodies placed at the disposal of the Anatomy Department of Berlin University – apart from that of Herbert Baum, who was buried in the cemetery at Berlin-Marzahn. On 31 September 1949 the body was moved to Weissensee. On the back of the gravestone an inscription commemorates the 27 members of the Baum group. The street leading to the cemetery is named after Herbert Baum.

(r.b.)



16

Joseph Weizenbaum

Computer scientist, social critic, inventor

Born 8 January 1923 in Berlin

Died 5 March 2008 in Gröben (Ludwigsfelde)

Field Z 1, Row 10



Joseph Weizenbaum was made famous by his computer program ELIZA. The name was taken from the play *Pygmalion*, in which a professor of phonetics seeks to train a flower girl called Eliza to pass for a lady but finds he has lost control over his creation. The program simulates a human-computer communication in natural language, that in today's Internet is generally known as Bot. Born the son of a furrier in Berlin, he was 13 years old when the family emigrated to the USA. There he studied mathematics and worked on computers, developing the first electronic banking system. His academic career began at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he became Professor of Computer Science in 1970. Weizenbaum was disturbed about the propagandization of artificial intelligence, and became a leading critic of what he considered irresponsible faith in computers. In 1976 his book *Computer Power and Human Reason* appeared. His critics took the view that Weizenbaum was out of step with the times, but he remained optimistic: "Only knowledge survives by literally informing the thinking man and changing the state of his brain." By 1996 he was again living in Berlin. In one of his last e-mails he wrote: "Our death is the last service which we can perform for the world: if we did not get out of the way, the generations that come after us would not have to refresh human culture, which would become rigid, unchanging, and so die. And with the death of culture everything human would also perish."

(r.b.)



17

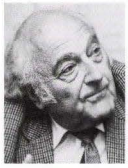
Stefan Heym

Writer, Member of the Bundestag, Father of the House

Born 10 April 1913 in Chemnitz

Died 16 December 2001 in Israel

Field Z 1, Row 1c



After fleeing from Berlin to Prague the 20-year-old student Helmut Flieg changed his name to Stefan Heym. In 1931 he had been expelled from his Chemnitz grammar school (Gymnasium) for writing an anti-militarist poem. In 1935 he went to the USA where his international career as an author began. He wrote his degree dissertation on Heinrich Heine in Chicago. In New York he worked as a journalist and freelance writer. His first novel *Hostages* (1942) was a bestseller. He took part in the Second World War as an American citizen and lived in the American zone of occupation until the end of 1945, working as a journalist. Heym was considered to be "pro-Soviet" and in 1953 he moved to the GDR, where he was made welcome as a convinced socialist. In 1956 tensions made themselves felt between Heym and the authorities. His book on the uprising of 17 June 1953 had to be published in West Germany. In 1976 Heym was one of the signatories protesting against the expulsion of Wolf Biermann. In 1979 he was expelled from the GDR Writers' Association. From that moment on his books were only published in the West. After the unification of Germany Heym stood up for the interests of the East Germans. In 1994 he was on the list of candidates of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) and won a direct mandate. As Father of the House he gave the opening speech to the 13th German Bundestag. Stefan Heym died of heart failure in Israel, where he had been attending a conference about his favourite poet, Heinrich Heine.

(r.b.)



18

Hugo Siegheim

Banker

Born 4 May 1846 in Berlin

Died 28 October 1892 in Berlin

Field T 1, family plot 252



On 28 March 1889 Clara Siegheim, née Wolff, the wife of the banker Hugo Siegheim, died of a heart attack in Nice at the young age of 33. Her burial took place in Weissensee on 3 April. Only three years later Hugo Siegheim also succumbed to a heart attack at the age of 46. The family tomb featuring Rococo elements that was erected after the death of Clara Siegheim is one of the magnificent structures in the Weissensee cemetery to be made of white Carrara marble. The design for the tomb ensemble is by the government architect Georg Lewy (1854-1925), who had made a name for himself as an architect of stately residential and commercial buildings. Some of his structures still form part of Berlin's cityscape. They include the business premises of the Tietz brothers (64 Klosterstrasse, Berlin-Mitte) and the former factory of the Gattel brothers (Prinzenallee 58, Berlin-Mitte), which is now a residential building. Both were designed by him and now have heritage status. Thus the tomb of the Siegheim family testifies to the interest of the client in bolstering the social esteem of the family by commissioning a famous architect with its design.

(f.l.)



19

Alfred Kirstein

Medical practitioner, landscape painter

Born 25 June 1863 in Berlin

Died 2 December 1922 in Berlin

Field T 1, family plot 387

Dr. Alfred Kirstein was a medical practitioner and the pioneer of direct laryngoscopy. He practised in Berlin until 1903, after which he studied landscape painting under Paul Baum (1859-1932), a member of the "Berlin Secession" since 1902. Kirstein moved to Paris, where he joined the circle of German artists around Rudolf Grossmann (1882-1941) and Hans Purrman (1880-1966), a pupil and friend of Henri Matisse. In the years 1909-1914 Kirstein exhibited regularly in the salon of the *Société des Artistes Indépendants* (Association of Independent Artists), some of his works featuring North African landscapes. In May 1914 Fritz Gurlitt art dealer's in Berlin exhibited a number of his landscapes. With the outbreak of the First World War Alfred Kirstein joined the German army as a medical officer, a position he retained until his death. In 1923 Berlin's Flechtheim Gallery held a memorial exhibition to commemorate his work as a landscape painter. Buried beside Alfred Kirstein are his parents, Privy Health Councillor Dr. med. Moritz Kirstein (1830-1896) and Franziska Kirstein née Michel (1843-1927). The tomb is impressive for its unusual design and expressive formal idiom. Two palm fronds are spread out over the stele like protective wings, their ends rolled up to form volutes. Over them towers a mighty palmette of stone. Next to the Star of David on the two inscription plaques a sunken torch adds to the symbolism of the grave wall as a sign of extinguished life.

(f.l.)



20

Julius Wolff

Surgeon, orthopaedist, Privy Medical Councillor

Born 21 March 1836 in Märkisch Friedland (West Prussia) (now Mirosławiec, Poland)

Died 18 February 1902 in Berlin

Field R 1, family plot 2067



Julius Wolff studied medicine in Berlin and received his doctorate in surgery from the Friedrich-Wilhelm University in 1860. After passing the state examination he settled down as a practising doctor and qualified as a lecturer at Berlin University in 1868. In 1884 he became a professor and in 1893 he became the superintendent of the newly founded orthopaedic surgery clinic, the first of its kind in Germany. In 1899 he was awarded the title of Privy Medical Councillor. His research work was mainly devoted to investigating the inner architecture of bones, osteology and bone growth. This earned him the nickname of "Knochen-Wolff" (Bone Wolff) from his contemporaries. The crowning achievement of decades of research was the appearance of his seminal work *Das Gesetz der Transformation der Knochen* (The law of the Transformation of Bones) in 1892. He published extensively, and as a teacher and a doctor he was extremely successful. He wrote on subjects such as osteoplasty, bone growth, healing of fractures, hip-joint resections and operations for pendulous goitre. As an osteologist and orthopaedist Wolff was a pioneer, for example, in the fields of harelip operations, the closing of cleft palates, and operations for hanging goitre. In 1902, shortly before the founding of the German Orthopaedics Society, Professor Wolff died as a result of a stroke. Today's bone and muscle research is still based on Wolff's work. In 2008 the Julius Wolff Institute was founded by merging the Research Laboratory of the Centre for Musculoskeletal Surgery of the Charité Teaching Hospital, Berlin, and the Clinical Biomechanical Laboratory of the Orthopaedics Department.

(r.b.)



21

Eugen Panofsky

Banker, city councillor, Chairman of the Structural Engineering Commission

Born 30 May 1855 in Tarnowitz (Upper Silesia) (now Tarnowskie Góry, Poland)

Died 19 April 1922 in Berlin

Wall opposite field W.T., family plot 821

In his day Eugen Panofsky influenced the development of Berlin to a significant extent. After attending the Friedrichsgymnasium grammar school in Breslau he came to Berlin at the age of 20 to serve an apprenticeship as a bank clerk. In 1875 he began his career in the banking house of Jacquier & Securius as a cashier, By 1888 he had become a junior executive with full signatory powers and by 1903 a partner. He was active in a large number of associations, being treasurer of the first German Antarctic expedition and a member of the Central Association of German Citizens of Jewish Faith. In 1912 he was elected an unsalaried city councillor to Berlin's City Council. As Chairman of the Structural Engineering Commission he also had to ensure that the city was protected against eyesores. He was also Council commissioner at the Bond Trading Department and head of the Electricity Department. Because of his great services to Berlin and its development he was made a City Elder in 1919. At the end of 1920, in keeping with his social status, Panofsky had his portrait painted by Max Liebermann. The design for the family plot was made by the sculptor Franz Naager (1870-1942) and a distinguished colleague of Panofsky's, the Berlin planning director Ludwig Hoffmann (1852-1932), who in this function helped shape Berlin's building policies from 1896 to 1924. The wall grave with its economical use of Renaissance forms successfully combines the desire to indicate social position with dignified restraint. The shell limestone tomb ensemble was executed in 1920 by the Zeidler & Wimmel workshops.

(r.b./f.l.)



22

Louis Lachmann

Architect

Born 20 July 1860 in Thorn (Pomerania) (now Toruń, Poland)

Died 18 May 1910 in Berlin

Wall opposite field W.T., family plot 825

The architect Louis Lachmann, whose firm Lachmann & Zauber was commissioned by Adolf Jandorf 1903/04 to design the magnificent department store at Weinberg (19-21 Brunnenstrasse/ Veteranenstrasse), also designed in 1901 the family mausoleum in which Lachmann's brother-in-law, the lawyer Leopold Katz (1860-1901), the client himself (1910) and his wife Caroline (1864-1937) were buried. The Lachmann's daughter, Vera (1904-1985), a poet and lecturer in classical philology, emigrated to the USA in 1939. After 1933, with the financial support of her uncle, Max Warburg, she had founded a "school for non-Aryan children" at 35 Jagowstrasse in Berlin. The youngest pupil there was (since 1936) her niece Beate Planskoy, who was able to leave Germany with an organized children's transport in 1939. Given this history of exile and loss, the mausoleum, restored with heritage funds in 1996, seems like a place of refuge or a fortress. Stylistically the structure belongs to symbolist Art Nouveau, with mediaeval forms serving as a basis for something artistically novel. The exterior is dominated by rocky blocks of Randersack limestone from the Emil Schober company. The wrought metalwork in aluminium and bronze was provided by the firm of Schulz & Holdefleiss. The interior with the flat slabs is bathed in a magical blue light which falls through the windows.

(j.k.)



23

Oswald Berliner

Brewery owner

Born 11 December 1832 in Landshut

Died 26 October 1900 in Berlin

Wall opposite field W.T., family plot 835

The tomb of the brewery owner Oswald Berliner was probably commissioned by his wife Hermine Berliner (1845-1938), who is also buried here, as is their daughter Margot Berliner, who died in 1904 at the age of 23. The back wall is of reddish granite. The deeply inset inscription plaque has an unusual decoration in the shape of a finely wrought bronze application consisting of two laurel trees with entwined roots inclining towards each other in the lower part and a leafy wreath at the top. The tomb's most elaborate adornment, however, is the wrought-iron lattice with its rich floral decorations, such as a festoon frieze of pine branches and rose twigs. The gate is of a particularly rich design: set in a double frame is a stylized ornamental vase with lavish floral adornments. In the upper part of the gate a coat-of-arms flanked by laurel branches has been inset bearing the family initial 'B'. Next to the gate are vertically hanging pine and laurel branches.
In 1999/2000 federal and state funds were provided to restore the completely rust-covered lattice and the nearly collapsing wall, thus saving the tomb ensemble from decay.

(j.k./f.l.)



24

Hermann Aron

Physicist, industrialist

Born 1 October 1845 in Kempen (Posen) (now Kępno, Poland)

Died 29 August 1913 in Bad Homburg

Wall opposite field W.T., family plot 847



Hermann Aron was born the son of a merchant and cantor in a *shtetl* in Posen. In 1862 he enrolled in the Köllnisches Gymnasium, Berlin's first *Realgymnasium* (grammar school with a modern slant) in the then Berlin suburb of Neukölln, whence he graduated. In 1867 he began a degree course in medicine at the University of Berlin, but soon switched after the third semester to the Mathematics and Science Faculty. In 1870 Aron went to Heidelberg University, whence he graduated in 1872. In 1872 he came back to Berlin and began working as an assistant in the Physics Laboratory of the Industrial Academy. In 1873 he received a doctorate from Berlin University and qualified as a lecturer in 1876 with a thesis on electrical measuring systems. Aron taught as a private lecturer at the Artillery and Engineering School of the Prussian Army. which had been a separate military training centre for officers of the Artillery and Corps of Engineers since 1816 and is now considered a predecessor institution of today's Technical University of Berlin. In 1880 Aron became a professor. In 1884 he invented the "Aron electric meter" based on the pendulum principle, the first electric meter suitable for practical use, which he also patented. As a result his former workshop became an international company. Aron founded and headed the Aron-Werke Elektrizitäts GmbH, renamed the Heliowatt-Werke in 1933. In 1894 he was made a Privy Councillor. Aron's scientific work was mainly concerned with electro-technical problems, such as the theory of the microphone, the inductive effects of atmospheric electricity on cables, electrical clock regulation, etc.

(r.b.)



25

Benno Orenstein

Industrialist

Born 2 August 1851 in Posen

Died 11 April 1926 in Berlin

Field W.T., family plot 1041, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



Benno Orenstein set up one of the largest companies for light and narrow-gauge railways, whose manufacturing operations were expanded to include steam locomotives, tramcars – for transporting passengers, goods or for special uses – signals, narrow-gauge material, motor locomotives, excavators and cranes. There were branches in European and non-European countries. On 1 April 1876, together with Arthur Koppel (1851-1908), Orenstein founded the firm of Orenstein & Koppel (O & K) as a general partnership (oHG) in Berlin. Orenstein contributed 3,000 marks that his uncle had lent him and his partner Koppel 15,000 marks as initial capital. In 1885 the partners separated, and Koppel created the firm of Arthur Koppel AG to handle O & K's international business. After the death of Koppel in 1909 the two companies merged to form Orenstein & Koppel – Arthur Koppel AG, making it one of the largest German industrial enterprises, of which Orenstein continued to have complete control as managing director. Orenstein died ten days after the 50th anniversary of the company's founding, and the succession as managing director and employer of 12,000 people passed to his son Alfred (1885-1969). Buried in the family plot, bordered by a back wall of black syenite, next to the company founder Benno Orenstein, is his wife Rosa, née Landsberger (1849-1941). Her sister Betty (1858-1917) was married to Hermann Aron (1845-1913), a professor of electrical engineering, inventor and entrepreneur. The Arons are buried not far from their brother-in-law, Benno Orenstein.

(F.I.)



26

Adolf Aron Baginsky

Medical practitioner, paediatrician, university professor, Privy Medical Councillor

Born 22 May 1843 in Ratibor (Upper Silesia) (now Racibórz, Poland)

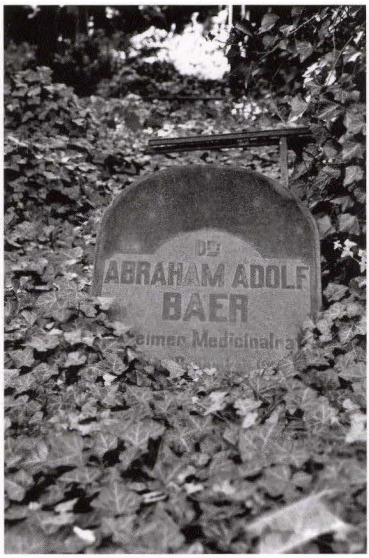
Died 15 May 1918 in Berlin

Field W.T., family plot 1116



Adolf Baginsky studied medicine in Vienna and Berlin. On 7 May 1866 he took his doctorate in Berlin and worked for two years as a private assistant to the great clinician Ludwig Traube (1818-1876) – under whom he had studied in Berlin – in the cholera unit of the Charité. After that his work as a practising doctor took him first to Seehausen (Altmark) and then to Nordhausen (Harz) before his return to Berlin in 1871. In 1881 Baginsky qualified as a lecturer in paediatrics at Berlin University, and in 1892 he was appointed Extraordinary Professor. Baginsky performed exceptional services in the field of youth welfare and school health care. His works include *Handbuch der Schulhygiene* (Handbook of School Health Care; 1876) and *Lehrbuch der Kinderkrankheiten* (Textbook of Children's Diseases; 1882). In 1890, at Baginsky's initiative and with the support of Rudolf Virchow, the Kaiser und Kaiserin Friedrich Hospital was founded, which Baginsky headed until 1918. The children's hospital had 300 beds and was divided into two departments: one for internal paediatrics (paediatric and adolescent medicine), and one for child surgery. There were also isolation wards for infectious patients. Today the heritage-listed and expanded ensemble of the Protestant Geriatrics Centre houses a branch of the Brotherhood of St. John the Evangelist. Baginsky was well known both in Germany and abroad. He was invited by Sultan Abdul Hamid to Constantinople to draw up plans for a modern, hygienic paediatric hospital.

(r.b.)



27

Abraham Adolf Baer

Social hygiene movement campaigner, senior prison medical officer

Born 26 December 1834 in Posen

Died 22 February 1908 in Berlin

Field V 1, family plot 1414

Abraham Adolf Baer studied medicine in Berlin, Vienna and Prague. He took his doctorate in 1861 and worked for four years as a prison doctor in Naugard, Pomerania. In 1872 he became chief medical officer of the Plötzensee prison. In 1879 he became a district physician, responsible for the health situation in a given district, and was appointed Privy Health Councillor. Baer wrote a number of important works, such as *Die Gefängnisse, Strafanstalten, ihre Einrichtung und Wirkung in hygienischer Beziehung* (Prisons and Penitentiaries: their Organization and Effects as regards Hygiene; Berlin, 1871) and *Der Alkoholismus, seine Verbreitung und Wirkung auf den individuellen und sozialen Organismus, sowie die Mittel, ihn zu bekämpfen* (Alcoholism, its Spread and Effects on the Individual and Social Organism, as well as the Means of Combating It; Leipzig 1893). Baer is regarded as the founder of prison hygiene. He wrote *Die Hygiene des Gefängniswesens. Der Vollzug von Freiheitsstrafen in hygienischer Beziehung* (Prison Hygiene: The Serving of Prison Sentences in its Hygienic Aspect; Jena, 1897). Baer took the view that "state and society have the duty and the ability to reduce the number of crimes and criminals by the elimination of social ills". He also pointed out the necessity of improving prison food. When Baer became chief medical officer at Plötzensee Prison in 1872, the death penalty still existed in the German Empire (1871-1918), but beheadings continued to take place at Plötzensee even after 1918, being carried out in the prison yard with an axe. In 1936 Hitler ordered that the death penalty should be carried out by guillotine. There was also an execution shed where hangings took place. Between 1933 and 1945 2,891 victims were executed, among them – on 18 August 1942 – members of Herbert Baum's Jewish resistance group, including his wife Marianne.

(r.b.)



28

Lina Morgenstern

Writer, philanthropist, campaigner for women's rights

Born 25 November 1830 in Breslau (Silesia) (now Wrocław, Poland)

Died 16 December 1909 in Berlin

Field U 1, Row 11, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



Lina Morgenstern was a woman who devoted her whole life to charity. Born the third of six children to the merchant and manufacturer Albert Bauer and his wife Fanny, she enjoyed a sheltered education in an exclusive girls' school. When she was barely 18 she founded the Penny Association for the Support of Poor Schoolchildren. In 1854 she married the merchant Theodor Morgenstern, with whom she lived in Berlin and had five children. She headed the Women's Association for the Promotion of Fröbel Kindergartens. As the end of the Prussian-Austrian War of 1866 caused much public suffering, she founded the Association of Berlin Soup Kitchens and the Child Protection Association, while also being co-founder of the Working Women's Educational Association and the first health insurance scheme for working women. During the Franco-Prussian War she headed a committee that provided troops in transit with food and looked after ill, wounded and captive soldiers. When it was announced that the soup kitchens were to be closed, she managed to have them preserved and expanded as a "permanent social benefit". This was thanks to the many voluntary helpers of both sexes that she was able to win over to her causes by virtue of her great organizing ability. Afterwards she founded the Berlin Housewives' Association with cookery classes and domestic employment agency as well as a Women's Association for the Rescue of Morally Abandoned Young Women. In 1874 she launched the *Deutsche Hausfrauenzeitung* (German Housewives' Paper) and became active politically. She was a delegate to the International Disarmament League, the French League for Peace and the German Peace Society. The inscription on her grave calls "Suppenlina" a great benefactress of the human race.

(r.b.)



29

Markus Reich

Pedagogue, teacher of the deaf, institute founder

Born 15 April 1844 in Kolin (Bohemia)

Died 23 May 1911 in Berlin

Field U 1, Row 15, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



After completing his primary and secondary education Reich worked as a private tutor. Having decided to take up the cause of the deaf, he studied at the Jewish teacher-training institute and the Royal Institute for the Deaf in Berlin. Reich had only one aim: "to give the deaf a voice!" It was not until 1911 that compulsory education was introduced for the deaf. Up till then deaf children were taught exclusively in private and church institutions which did not admit Jewish children. As early as 1873, however, with the support of many fellow campaigners, Reich had managed to found his own educational and educational institute for deaf children in Fürstenwalde. Jews from all over Germany supported him with donations and their work in an association that he had founded called Friends of the Deaf. In 1888 the association was able to buy an over 3,000 square-metre piece of land in Neu-Weissensee, on which was erected a three-storey building in which 62 pupils received instruction. They received both theoretical knowledge and manual skills, so that they would be able to earn their living later. Thanks to the support of his relatives the Institute for the Deaf became a family business. Reich's sister Anna was in charge of the girls' section, while his wife, Emma, who was a kindergarten teacher, also devoted herself to the common cause. Furthermore all three of the Reichs' children later became teachers of deaf children, thus continuing the work of their parents. Although he did not live to see the extension of the building, Markus Reich is considered a pioneer in the teaching of the deaf. In 1942 all children and adults living in the home were deported to extermination camps and murdered by the Nazis.

(r.b.)



30

Carl Leopold Netter

Industrialist

Born 29 January 1864 in Bühl (Baden)

Died 14 June 1922 in Baden-Baden

Field B 2, family plot 464 and 465



In November 1893 the young mothers Cécilie Lewinsohn née Netter (1867-1893) and Clara Netter née Bloch (1872-1893) died in quick succession of typhus abdominalis, a disease which they had caught by eating tainted oysters in the Kempinski Restaurant. Their grieving husbands, Dr. Jacob Lewinsohn, a pharmacist, and Dr. jur. h. c. Carl Leopold Netter, a merchant, functionary of the Jewish community in Berlin and benefactor of the town of Bühl near Baden-Baden, had the wrought iron craftsman M. Fabian make a lattice-like structure in the form of a summerhouse enclosing the gravesite on four sides in 1893/94. The high back wall, the side lattices that come sweeping down towards the path, and the latticed front with two-wing door are decorated by rose blossoms surrounded by leaves. The rose is a symbol of beauty and, because of the fleeting nature of its scent, also of transience, while at the same time hinting at paradise. As representations of the human figure are not permitted in Jewish cemeteries, and living flowers are at odds with tradition, wrought-iron tombs with rich floral adornment used to dominate even such a cemetery as Weissensee, which was known for its generally more liberal interpretation of the rules. A particular feature of the tomb is the use of colour. Traces of this were discovered during the work of restoration, which was completed – with colours – in 2000-2002. In view of the campaigns of 1942/43 to turn metal to scrap for use in the war economy, the tomb is one of the few surviving examples in this cemetery of the wrought iron work so characteristic of the late 19th century.

(j.k.)



31

Siegmund Borchardt

Merchant, manufacturer

Born 8 September 1841 in Jastrow (West Prussia) (now Jastrowie, Poland)

Died 3 February 1915 in Berlin

Field C 2, family plot 438

In the immediate vicinity of the mausoleum of the Aschrott family is the gravesite of the families of Siegmund and Emil Borchardt (1842-1918). The merchant and commercial court judge Siegmund Borchardt was the owner of the building at 226 and 227 Friedrichstrasse and proprietor of the paper wholesale business of Maass & Röhmann there as well as of the production plants of Wilhelm Woellner's type foundry and the Otto & Krause brass-rule factory and process engraving establishment. The type foundry and the process engraving establishment belonged jointly to him and his brother, Emil Borchardt. The ground plan of the tomb ensemble forms an almost regular pentagon. The ensemble is enclosed by light-grey granite ground plates, on which there are pillars to right and left with an urn and a pointed, conical pillar in the middle. The back wall rests on a plinth and is divided into a central inscribed tablet with forged lattices at the sides and two corner posts towering over the tomb ensemble that bear a stone ball over a wrought-iron capital and on the very top an iron star of David. The stone components of the tomb ensemble are made of imperishable black syenite. In 2001-2002 the tomb ensemble was restored with federal and state funds, as a result of which the wrought-iron lattice-work reappeared in its original colours.

(j.k./f.l.)



32

Sigmund Aschrott

Industrialist, investor in real estate

Born 14 June 1826 in Hochheim

Died 5 May 1915 in Berlin

Field C 2, family plot 435



Sigmund Aschrott was the son of a linen draper who lived in Kassel. He learned the trade of a commercial clerk and entered the family business. As a manufacturer of linen and as a trader in textiles he was very successful. His products received many prizes at the world exhibitions in Paris and London. In 1869 Aschrott became a supplier to the Prussian army. At this point the successful businessman began to rebuild the city of Kassel. There arose apartment blocks, green spaces, parks and avenues. As the Kassel city council did not contribute, he financed everything himself and became rich. He continued to do what he could for the city, endowing monuments, fountains and properties. The city, however, showed no gratitude, so he moved, disappointed, to Berlin at the age of over 70. Here he found the recognition he was due, being appointed Royal Prussian Commercial Councillor and receiving other decorations and distinctions. Even at an advanced age he dealt in real estate, acquiring a 90,000 square-metre tract of land in Pankow and building more houses on it. The mausoleum commissioned by Aschrott for his wife Anna was the largest and most overwhelming to be erected in the cemetery in the years 1903-1904. She died in Vienna in 1890 aged only 57, and in 1894 her grave was transferred from Vienna's central cemetery to Weissensee. The design of the mausoleum is by Prof. Bruno Schmitz (1858-1916), who had also designed several imperial monuments – on the Kyffhäuser, at the Porta Westfalica, and in the Deutsches Eck (German Corner) in Koblenz – as well as the monument commemorating the Battle of the Nations in Leipzig. Schmitz did not want a monument for himself and left instructions for his ashes to be scattered in the Rhine. Seriously damaged in the Second World War, the Aschrott mausoleum was successfully restored with funds from the Berlin City Council and the federal government in 1996.

(r.b.)



33

Theodor David

Estate agent

Born 7 August 1852 in Berlin

Died 11 April 1898 in Berlin

Field J 2, family plot 675

The tomb of the estate agent Theodor David, who died of pneumonia at the age of 45, and his wife Rose David, née Sommerfeld (1876-1932) is one of the stateliest monuments in the Weissensee cemetery. Like the tomb of Adolf and Rosalie Ernst, it is built of white marble. The strikingly sumptuous design of the tomb typifies the unabashed ostentation so characteristic of late Historicist architecture. The sculptural focus of this neo-Baroque tomb is the monumental vase filled with flowers in the central axis in the form of a blind niche. Other decorative elements are the motif of the shining sun as a symbol of justice as well as poppy flowers and poppy capsules, symbols of the mythological brothers Hypnos (Sleep) and Thanatos (Death), sons of the Nox (Night), as signs of eternal rest.

The restoration of the severely damaged tomb, which was carried out in 1999 and 2000, involved cleaning the tomb and the time-consuming removal of environmental degradation of marble caused by the black-crust formation. The black crust was removed by using scalpels and a micro fine blasting unit. At the back of the tomb a small rectangle has been left untreated to show the thickness of the encrustation.

(j.k./f.l.)



34

Georg Wilhelm Arnstaedt

Banker, Privy Commercial Councillor

Born 31 May 1844 in Magdeburg

Died 5 November 1911 in Dresden

Field S 2, family plot 1159

One of the most lavish tomb ensembles of the cemetery is undoubtedly that in the family plot of Agnes, née Peretz (1852-1929) and Georg Wilhelm Arnstaedt, which was created by the architect Friedrich Blau. The tomb occupies a large part of the octagonal plot. The centre of the grandiose structure is roofed over by a flat cupola supported by Doric columns joined at both sides by symmetrical rows of columns. The childless couple lived in Dresden, where Georg Wilhelm Arnstaedt was director of the Dresdner Bank, founded in 1872 and one of the great German universal banks. Since Arnstaedt's parents were buried on the left side of the tomb ensemble, it is likely that both man and wife arranged during their lifetime to have their bodies transferred from Dresden to Berlin after their death. On the right side lie the banker's niece, Elise Müllerheim née Arnstaedt (1873-1942), and nephew, the gynaecologist Dr. Robert Müllerheim (1862-1942). Both took their own lives on 6 July 1942, the cause of death being given as "poisoning". This day was also the doctor's eightieth birthday. Suicide enabled the couple to escape their impending deportation to a concentration camp, as with so many in this cemetery who found their last rest in this way. In 2003 the gravesite was restored at great cost out of federal and state funds.

(r.b.)



35

Alfred Cohn

Banker

Born 23 September 1861 in Neustadt

Died 26 November 1932 in Berlin

Field R 2, family plot 980



Buried here are the banker and Commercial Councillor Abraham (known as Alfred) Cohn and his wife Philippine, née Cohn (1866-1949) as well as their son Ernst Cohn (1890-1903), who died an untimely death and for whom the parents commissioned this tomb. The design for this unique tomb ensemble in the Art Nouveau style was by the sculptor Otto Stichling (1866-1912) and it was exhibited at the Great Berlin Art Exhibition of 1904. Furthermore a picture of this decoratively unusual tomb was published in a picture book entitled *Grabmalskunst* (Tomb Art) in 1905. Between the lateral pillars in the shape of fire pylons the back wall is hung with a Torah curtain. The bronze plaque placed in the middle reproduces the first part of Psalm 23 next to the surname. The top of the curtain is adorned with a broken band of embossed bronze with the Star of David in the middle. Filigree bronze work originally concealed the vertical bands of enamelled turquoise plates on the pillars, so that the colours of these enamelled bands merely shimmered through, producing mysterious lighting effects. As an artist Otto Stichling is represented by various tombs in Berlin's cemeteries, including those of Henriette Kalischer (Field J 2) and Ignaz Wolfsohn (Field M 2, wall) in Weissensee.

(f.l.)



36

Georg Minden

Jurist, Director, Privy Councillor

Born 31 August 1850 in Berlin

Died 17 January 1928 in Berlin

Field Q 2, family plot 974



After taking his degree in law Georg Minden went as a circuit judge to Memel, the northernmost town of what was then East Prussia. In 1879 he returned to Berlin. Minden left the civil service and became legal advisor to the Bond Trading Department of the City of Berlin, which had been founded in 1868 as the Berlin Bond Trading Institute. It was here that mortgage banking transactions were performed, specifically the granting of loans to Berlin landowners. As legal advisor he had the task of advising the company in all economic matters. His predecessor was none other than the liberal politician Eduard Lasker (1829-1884). After Minden had held this responsible post for some years, the City of Berlin elected him director of the Bond Trading Department. In additional to his professional work he was also active in a number of organizations, such as the Berlin Society for Anthropology, Ethnology and Prehistory, of which he was a board member. The society had considerable funds to support expeditions and excavations, having been founded in 1869 by the physician and anthropologist Rudolf Virchow and other scholars. Minden was also involved in the founding of the Museum of Ethnology in 1873 following a petition from the Berlin Anthropology Society to the Emperor William I. He also took a scientific interest in Jewish folklore, with the aim of collecting and preserving songs and proverbs, but mainly legends and fairy tales. In the Jewish Community he was chairman of the Representative Assembly for many years and a member of the Executive Council of the Reform Community.

(r.b.)



37

Hermann Tietz

Department store magnate

Born 29 April 1837 in Birnbaum (Posen)

Died 3 May 1907 in Berlin

Field O 2, family plot 864, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



The Tietz family ran a haulage company in Posen. One day they had an original idea that enabled them to make a fortune. In America they bought as many horses as a sailing ship they had chartered could hold. They then sold the horses to Prussia, which in 1870 was waging war on France. Oscar Tietz (1858-1923), the son of Jacob Tietz, became a shop assistant. He too had a brilliant business idea, the invention of "guipure lace" which launched him on a successful career in business. As the technique was developed in Plauen, it was known as "Plauen lace". Oscar's uncle Hermann was very taken with his ideas and helped him open a button, loop-making, linen and wool shop in Gera. Oscar now began a revolution in the retail trade. Goods were sold at clearly displayed fixed prices, thus eliminating haggling, and everything had to be paid for in cash, so there was no more credit. As the purchase was made directly from the manufacturer in cash, they had the best conditions. Their use of advertisements made them one of the first companies to work with the media. Department stores were opened in Bamberg, Erfurt, Rostock, Stralsund and Wismar, followed by Munich, Berlin and Hamburg. When Uncle Hermann died in 1907, Oscar continued the business with his wife Betty. Later his sons took the business to the very top of the retail trade, enabling them to take over Kaufhaus des Westens (KaDeWe) and have the largest sales floor space in Germany.

(r.b.)



38

Arthur Koppel

Industrialist

Born 14 March 1851 in Dresden

Died 12 May 1908 in Baden Baden

Field F 2, family plot 773



On 1 April 1876 Arthur Koppel, who was a junior executive with full signatory powers for the Berlin iron merchants G. E. Dellschau, joined with Benno Orenstein (1851-1926) to found the firm of Orenstein & Koppel (O & K) in Berlin. What had begun as a commercial company dealing in narrow-gauge railways with the accompanying rails and cars developed into the global company O & K, whose product range included locomotives, rolling stock and later excavators as well. In 1885 the partners separated because of business differences, the cautious character of Orenstein being hard to reconcile with Koppel's brash approach. A contract was signed granting Koppel the sole right to represent O & K abroad for five years. He later set up his own company, Arthur Koppel AG, which in 1905 began to cooperate with O & K on the sales side. In 1909, after the death of Koppel, the two companies merged. In 1914 the concern – now renamed Orenstein & Koppel – Arthur Koppel AG – comprised 12 repair and maintenance shops and 95 branches worldwide. The First World War brought the company heavy losses through the expropriation of the foreign branches, from which it nevertheless recovered. In 1941 the "Aryanization" of the company took place. After the Second World War the company resurfaced as O & K und Lübecker Maschinenbau AG. It was not until 2011 that the O & K brand finally disappeared from the market and is now only history.

(f.l.)



39

Adolf Ernst

Theatre director

Born 10 May 1846 in Breslau

Died 10 May 1927 in Berlin

Field F 2, family plot 764



Dr. Adolf Ernst was the founder of the Adolf Ernst Theatre – later the Thalia Theatre – in Berlin. With the plays he put on – mainly farces – and the splendour of his stage sets Ernst won the appreciation of Berlin audiences. He was helped in the selection of plays, costumes and décor by his wife Rosalie, née Abraham (1853-1899), who was also in charge of the box office. Furthermore she is described in the book *Berühmte israelitische Männer und Frauen* (Famous Israelite Men and Women) as a philanthropist who distributed "her gifts to the needy of all confessions". In 1893 Adolf and Rosalie Ernst landed their greatest box-office hit with the English comedy "Charley's Aunt" that ran to over 400 performances. The farce was even performed in the Neues Palais in the park of Sanssouci at the invitation of the Emperor William II. Built circa 1899 the neo-Baroque, ornate marble tomb of the Ernst family belongs to the type of the canopied tomb whose form derives from the wedding canopy (chuppah) that is used in the Jewish wedding ritual. The rose – a reference to his wife's first name Rosalie – occurs as the main motif of the tomb ornamentation in the gable, in the glass windows and on the post reliefs. Apart from the rose as a symbol of the transience of all beauty, many other flowers are also shown in illustration of the paradise to come and the inscription on the tomb: "The flowers that silently entwine you, are made of my sad thoughts to mourn you...". In the years 1998-2000 the restoration of the marble tomb took place within the framework of a project of the German Federal Environment Foundation and the Berlin Heritage Office.

(j.k./f.l.)



40

Albert Albu

Medical practitioner, specialist in internal medicine

Born 18 March 1867 in Frankfurt (Oder)

Died 15 January 1921 in Berlin

Field P 2, Row 18



Albert Albu studied medicine and natural sciences in Berlin. From 1891 to 1896 he was resident physician at the Moabit hospital. He received his doctorate in 1889, and in 1900 he qualified as a university lecturer and opened a private clinic for gastric and intestinal diseases. As he mainly specialized in the digestive organs, he also took an interest in vegetarianism. In his book *Die vegetarische Diät* (1902) he deplored the practice of it by both the healthy and the ill. In Chapter 4, entitled *Der Vegetarier*, he writes: "The views they represent have been brilliantly parodied in a neat little poem by Rudolf Baumbach." Albu's views on vegetarianism may seem outmoded today, but the poem has lost none of its topical relevance.

(r.b.)

Liebchen
(von Rudolf Baumbach)

Liebchen heut in Gesellschaft geht,
Zeigt sich in raschelnder Seide,
Fragt mich, wie ihr das Hütchen steht
Und die Schleppe am Kleide.

Wie ich die schlanke Jugendgestalt
Must're mit prüfenden Blicken,
Rieselt ein Schauer mir eisig kalt
Plötzlich hinunter den Rücken.

Alles, vom Stiefelchen bis zum Hut
Sitzt dir wie angegossen,
Aber wie viel unschuldiges Blut
Ist um dich, Teure, geflossen!

Seidenwürmer wohl tausend und mehr
Mussten ihr Leben lassen
Für den Stoff, den du hinter dir her
Schleppst durch die staubigen Gassen.

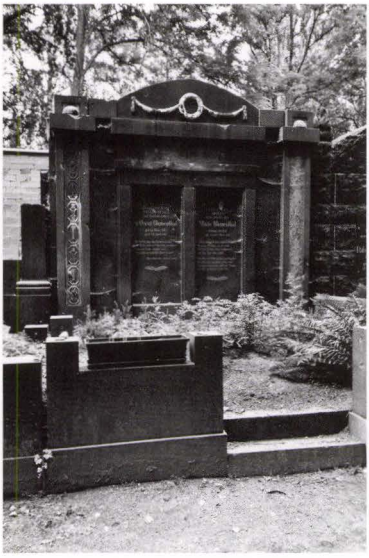
Für dein zierliches Stiefelpaar
Musste ein Kälbchen verenden,
Und Hermeline, ein Dutzend gar,
Mussten die Fellchen dir spenden.

Deine Handschuhe, glatt und weich,
Gab dir ein blökendes Lämmlein,
Und die Schildkröt' im kühlen Teich,
Lieferte dir das Kämmlein.

Walfisch schwamm im eisigen Meer
Fröhlich hin und wieder.
Stirb und gib dein Fischbein her!
Liebchen braucht es für's Mieder.

Pfeilgetroffen ein Elefant
Musste im Urwald erblassen.
Hat für den Fächer in deiner Hand
Leben und Zähne gelassen.

Sterbend gab dir der Wüstenstrauss
Wallende Federn als Steuer. -
Trinke auch mir die Seele aus,
Reizendes Ungeheuer!



41

Oscar Blumenthal

Writer, critic, theatre manager

Born 13 March 1852 in Berlin

Died 24 April 1917 in Berlin

Wall opposite Field U 2, family plot 1683



A Berliner from a family of modest means, Blumenthal managed to get by through giving private tuition and turning out minor literary works. He studied philology at the Universities of Berlin and Leipzig from 1869 to 1872, taking his doctorate in the latter year. He launched the literary series *Neue Monatshefte für Dichtkunst und Kritik*, and in 1875 he joined the staff of the *Berliner Tageblatt* as columnist and drama critic, where his often scathing reviews earned him the nickname of "Bloody Oskar". A scholar and doctor of letters, he edited the collected works of Dietrich Grabbe (1801-1836). He now began to write some plays of his own, which were not very successful, however. This moved him to compose the following aphorism:

Failure has a bright side,
To lighten our distress:
It makes our colleagues like us more
Than would a great success!

With the comedies *Der Probepfeil* (The Trial Arrow) and *Die Große Glocke* (The Great Bell) he had so much success that he became a rich man. In 1887, with the support of Rudolf Mosse, he had the Lessingtheater built near the Reichstag, one of the finest theatres in Berlin. On 11 September 1888 the theatre had its opening night with a production of Lessing's *Nathan der Weise* (Nathan the Sage). On 30 December 1897 the play *Im weissen Rössl* (At the White Horse Inn) had its premiere in the Lessingtheater and was such a great success that it is still performed today. The co-author was Gustav Kadelburg (1851-1925). Blumenthal and Kadelburg now became the most frequently played comedy-writing team. The Emperor William II himself went to see the *Weisses Rössl*. In 1898, Blumenthal ended his 10-year association with the theatre to devote himself to literary pursuits.

(r.b.)



42

Arno Philippsthal

Medical practitioner, war veteran, SA victim

Born 13 September 1887 in Güsten (Anhalt)

Died 3 April 1933 in Berlin

Field H 7, Row 30, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



Dr. Arno Philippsthal was one of the first victims of the fascist persecution of the Jews. Born in Güsten (Anhalt) to the merchant Ferdinand Philippsthal and his wife Minna, he was one of five children. After completing his secondary education he studied medicine in Munich and Berlin. Following a stint as resident physician in the Hasenheide hospital he took a doctorate at the University of Leipzig. He then opened his first practice in Posen. In the First World War he served as a medical officer and was decorated with the Iron Cross First Class. After the war Philppsthal settled in Berlin-Biesdorf. He was known for often treating impecunious patients free of charge and attending to them day and night. He had two children with his second wife Frieda. She received medical training and was thus able to support him in his work. In the early 1930s Philippsthal bought a piece of land on which he wanted to build his own clinic. The construction work was to start on 1 April 1933, but on 21 March, without an arrest warrant or any other justification, he was abducted and taken to the SA prison in the General-Pape-Strasse, where he died of ill treatment two days later. Many arrested persons were denounced through the agency of the Secret Military Police, and that may have been the case with Dr. Philippsthal. Today the nursing home Am Grabensprung in Berlin-Biesdorf bears his name, and the adjacent street has been renamed Arno-Philippsthal-Strasse.

(r.b.)



43

Tom Seidmann-Freud

Artist, illustrator, author of children's books

Born 17 November 1892 in Vienna

Died 7 February 1930 in Berlin

Field H 6, Row 6



The niece of the renowned psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, Martha Gertrude Freud was born in Vienna. At the age of 15 she adopted the male pseudonym "Tom". In 1898 the family moved to Berlin. Upon completing her secondary education she attended art school in London. Back in Berlin she continued her studies at the Royal Kunstgewerbemuseum (Arts and Crafts Museum), where she perfected her watercolour skills. She began writing books in 1914. In 1920 she met the writer Jakob Seidmann, whom she married a year later. In 1922 her daughter Angela was born. From this point on Jakob and Tom Seidmann-Freud worked closely together, founding the Peregrin Verlag which published the picture books *Die Fischreise* (The Fish's Journey) and the *Buch der Hasengeschichten* (Book of Stories About Hares). Although Tom's illustrations of the books are of very high quality, the print runs were small. She had a lot more success with her play books and movable books as well as the four story games. In autumn 1929 the publishing house, for which Jakob Seidmann was responsible, went bankrupt. In October despair made him take his own life. Tom fell into a depression and lost all desire to go on living. In February 1930 she died of an overdose of sleeping pills in Neukölln hospital. Shortly before her death she composed the following poem:

Sweet will it be,
Like a drop of fine fare on your lips,
Like the sun on a cool day,
Like the seawater on your feet
On a hot day,
Like a rest after aimless wandering, like a pause for reflection,
Like a restoration to health.

(r.b.)



44

Joseph Schwarz

Temple singer, chamber singer, baritone

Born 10 October 1881 in Riga (Latvia)

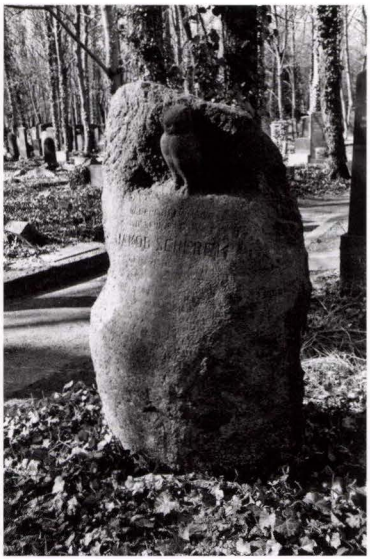
Died 10 November 1926 in Berlin

Field A 6, family plot 3475



Joseph Schwarz was born into the family of a poor tailor, the eldest of nine children. He had to start earning money at an early age and at eight was singing in the Riga temple choir. His fine voice was soon noticed, and the local citizenry ensured that he received appropriate singing lessons. In 1897 he went to Berlin, where he was trained at the Stern Conservatory. Because of his wonderful voice he went on to Vienna, where he received instruction from the well-known Professor Robinsohn. Again he earned his living as a temple singer. This was when his career took off. First he worked in the Breslau Opera, in Graz and Riga, while from 1909 to 1915 he was a member of the Viennese Hofoper. However, it was at the Berlin Opera that he achieved world fame as an opera and concert singer. He also had great success with his guest appearances in New York and Chicago. He sang mainly in the Italian operas of Verdi, though he also had great success with the operas of Richard Wagner as well as with his "Hebrew Evenings" in Berlin, Frankfurt, Cologne and Breslau. For his Lieder Evenings he preferred Schubert, Liszt and Strauss. Schwarz was married twice. He was laid to rest in an impressive mausoleum designed by the architect Ernst Moritz Lesser (1882-1958). Fourteen columns support the roof of the structure built of travertine in the style of a Greek temple. In the middle is a stone in which Psalm 90.2. has been engraved: *Even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God.* Seventeen years after the death of Joseph Schwarz the roof of the tomb often served as a nocturnal refuge for fugitive Jews.

(r.b.)



45

Jakob Scherek

Writer, journalist, press spokesman

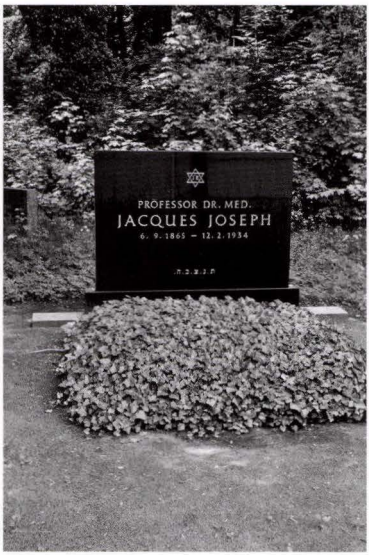
Born 31 December 1870 in Schrimm (Posen) (now Śrem, Poland)

Died 27 July 1927 in Hangö (Finland)

Field C 6, Row 34

Jakob Scherek was born the son of the merchant Max Scherek. He came to Berlin to study law, but left the university without taking a doctorate and switched to a literary career. Even as a student Scherek had worked as a journalist. From 1898 to 1906 he was an editor for the *Breslauer Zeitung* and after that managing editor of the Königsberg *Hartungsche Zeitung*. He worked in the same capacity for the *Freisinnige Zeitung* as well until it was closed down. He was also a writer and drama critic, writing numerous plays, comedies, novels and novellas. The last of these was published in 1920 by Reclam: *Die Doppelverlobung* (The Double Engagement), a humorous tale of Jewish small town life. For two years starting in December 1917 Scherek was editor-in-charge of the monthly *Im deutschen Reich*, a publication of the Central Association of German Citizens of Jewish Faith, founded in 1893. He was the first literary author to write for the political desk at the *Berliner Börsen-Courier*. In 1920 he joined the civil service, becoming a Privy Councillor in 1922. By the end of his life he was Senior Privy Councillor and deputy press spokesman of the Prussian State Government. Jakob Scherek died at the age of only 56 in Hangö, a much frequented luxury seaside resort in Finland, after an emergency operation for belatedly diagnosed appendicitis. On his grave stands a red granite stone, in which an owl has been carved with the following inscription: "Adversity spake / I'll make you yield / Courage spake / Nay, I'm your shield / Time spake / The lights of fame beckon / Then spake Death / Without me none can reckon". Next to Jakob Scherek lies his Breslau-born wife, Wilhelmine née Schornstein, who died in 1953.

(r.b.)



46

Jacques Joseph

Medical practitioner, orthopaedist, nose and plastic surgeon

Born 6 September 1865 in Königsberg (East Prussia) (now Kaliningrad, Russia)

Died 12 February 1934 in Berlin

Field H 5, family plot 3791



During the Weimar Republic Jacques Joseph was one of the world's most famous plastic surgeons. The son of a rabbi, he studied in Berlin and Leipzig. After taking his doctorate and license to practice, he settled in Berlin as a practising doctor. As he wanted to become a surgeon, he applied to Julius Wolff of the orthopaedic surgery unit at the Berlin teaching hospital. Wolff was generally known as "Bone Wolff". In the Berlin of the 1920s there were five famous doctors called Joseph: the dermatologist "Skin Joseph", the internist "Stomach Joseph", the urologist "Bladder Joseph", the gynaecologist "Ladies' Joseph", and finally our Joseph, who was called "Nose Joseph". When Joseph operated on a boy with protruding ears, Wolff dismissed him, as he felt cosmetic operations to be inadmissible and irreconcilable with medical ethics. Joseph opened a private practice. In 1898 he carried out his first cosmetic nose operation. He developed his own operating instruments, one of which was the raspatory, which is still used today and referred to as a "Joseph". During the First World War he operated on soldiers whose faces had been disfigured by wounds and was very successful in the field of restorative surgery. In 1915 the "Supreme Warlord", Emperor William II, offered him a professorship in plastic surgery at the Charité. But as this offer was conditional on his converting to Christianity, Joseph declined. Nevertheless in 1916 Joseph did become head of the Plastic Facial Surgery at the Charité. By 1922 he was back working in his own practice. The last year of his life was the first one of the Nazi period, during which time he could only work in exceptional cases.

(r.b.)



47

Albert Mendel

Merchant

Born 21 November 1866 in Essen

Died 10 October 1922 in Berlin

Field P 4, family plot 3205

One of the artistically most significant tomb ensembles was created for the merchant Albert Mendel. Walter Gropius (1883-1969) was the architect charged with the design. Gropius had already done the interior decoration for Mendel's town house in Lützowplatz and his villa at Wannsee. After Mendel's death Gropius received a commission to create a small superstructure for the grave. With this grave he achieved a concentration on the essence without any adornment which is impressive in its "simple monumentality". Both the asymmetrical design and the reduced form of the mock sarcophagus fit in perfectly with this impression. At the time of the execution of the tomb Gropius was head of the Bauhaus in Weimar. Hence the travertine components for the tomb ensemble were also hewn in the vicinity of Weimar by an Ehringsdorf-based firm of stonemasons, Gustav Haubold, and transported to Berlin by rail. The Noack foundry in Berlin undertook to make the metal letters. With the onset of inflation a budget of one million marks was available for the execution of the ensemble. By the end of the 1980s this tomb, like many of the graves in Weissensee, was in a desolate condition, and all the letters were missing. In October 1990 the then German president, Richard von Weizsäcker, issued invitations to two benefit concerts by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Daniel Barenboim. The proceeds sufficed to restore the sepulchre of the merchant Albert Mendel, and the missing letters were replaced by the Noack foundry, which still exists to this day.

(r.b.)



48

Albert Pinkuss

Banker

Born 24 April 1861 in Berlin

Died 7 January 1918 in Berlin

Field S 4, family plot 2507

The Royal Commercial Councillor and banker Albert Pinkuss was a financial pioneer of German lignite mining and a partner in the private banking house of Jacquier & Securius – founded in 1817 – which had its offices at 3-4 An der Stechbahn in Berlin-Mitte, in the so-called "Red Schloss", a four-storey residential and commercial building that owed its name to its resemblance to the Berlin Rathaus. In 1903 his brother-in-law, Privy Commercial Councillor Hermann Frenkel (1850-1932), had, in addition to Pinkuss, taken on the banker and city councillor Eugen Panofsky (1855-1922) (gravesite: Field W.T., Wall, family vault 821) as another junior partner in the banking house. The clientele of this prestigious private bank consisted mainly of civil servants, officers and landowners. In 1938 came the "Aryanization" of the banking house Jacquier & Securius. The Pinkuss family vault is enclosed on three sides by a pergola, while the Neoclassical inscription steles bear a formal resemblance to the Classical grave steles of older Jewish burial places. Next to Albert Pinkuss lies his wife Wilhelmine Klara, known as Mascha, née Markwordt, remarried name Rivi (1867 Riga-1937 Berlin). A peculiar feature of the tomb ensemble is the varied design of the four capitals and bench feet, which differ in detail (palmettes, volutes) despite having the same basic form. In 2001 the completely decayed wooden elements of the pergola were replaced and the crumbling masonry of the tomb ensemble restored with federal and state funds.

(j.k./f.l.)



49

Fedor Schäffer

Merchant

Born 11 February 1869 in Rybnik (Silesia)

Died 26 July 1914 in Berlin

Field M 4, family plot 2103

The tomb of Hulda, née Schlesinger (1876-1939) and Fedor Schäffer consists of a back wall-type monument with mock portal. The top section above the mock portal has inside it a shell-shaped niche whose centre is occupied by an almost completely three-dimensional representation of a classical-style oil lamp in the traditional beak shape. The plot is enclosed on the three remaining sides by balustrades. Stylistically a specimen of Late Historicism, the tomb of red, polished granite combines various formal borrowings from Egyptian and Greco-Roman antiquity, while the striking design of the (half) columns originates from the Early Neoclassical architecture of the French Revolutionary period circa 1790. The tomb ensemble shows radical displacements of the massive blocks of the back wall, which were evidently caused by a bomb blast during the Second World War. Thus during the work of restoration in 2000 the entire tomb ensemble had to be dismantled for safety reasons and reassembled, while partial losses from the side balustrade had to be replaced.

(j.k./f.l.)



50

Josef Garbáty-Rosenthal

Cigarette manufacturer

Born 27 June 1851 in Lida (White Russia)

Died 29 June 1939 in Berlin

Field D 4, family plot 2234



The success story of Josef Garbáty-Rosenthal began with the production of cigarettes by hand at home. This was followed in 1890 by the setting up of a cigarette factory – the company's most successful brand being "Queen of Sheba" – initially in rented rooms. In 1906 came the formal opening of a modern factory building, the Cigaretten Fabrik J. Garbáty in Pankow's Hadlichstrasse. In 1912 a second factory building was added at the same site and in 1931 an extension. Until his expropriation by the Nazis Garbáty employed almost 1,600 workers and clerical staff. The company's employee benefits were exemplary for their time, ranging from the canteen for daily meals to an old-age pension scheme. Apart from his business activities Garbáty-Rosenthal supported good causes, founding a chair at the Higher Institute of Jewish Studies and a synagogue for the Jewish orphanage in Pankow. In 1938 the Garbáty family lost all their possessions when they were forced to sell. The sons Eugen (1880-1970) and Moritz (1892-1965) emigrated with their families to the USA. Josef Garbáty-Rosenthal, who remained in Berlin, died shortly after his 88th birthday in his villa in Pankow. When the Pankow U-Bahn station was opened on 16 September 2000 the square in front of it was named Garbátyplatz in honour of the former cigarette manufacturer.

(r.b./f.l.)



51

Jenny Apolant

Social and political activist, women's rights campaigner, city councillor

Born 5 April 1874 in Berlin

Died 5 June 1925 in Frankfurt a. M.

Field L 4, family plot 2170



Jenny Rathenau, the daughter of Albert and Johanna Rathenau, was the cousin of Foreign Minister Walter Rathenau, who was shot dead in the street by political assassins in 1922. Even in Imperial Germany she had made a name for herself as a campaigner for women's rights. In 1907 she had headed the General Association of German Women. In 1900 she married the noted medical practitioner and cancer researcher Hugo Apolant (1866-1915), with whom she moved from Berlin to Frankfurt. From 1913 to 1925 she was active on the board of the Women's Seminary for Social Careers in Frankfurt am Main, a training centre for female social welfare workers. From 1919 to 1924 she represented the German Democratic Party in the first Frankfurt city council assembly. She was editorial secretary of the monthly *Frau in der Gemeinde* (Women in the Community), and took part in health care and welfare work. She also founded an employment agency for "salaried welfare work for women", set up the first health care centre in Frankfurt, opened alcohol-free restaurants, and conducted research into the place of women in caring for the poor and orphaned and organizing schools and housing. In 1912, in addition to her many other books and writings, she published her work *Stellung und Mitarbeit der Frauen in der Gemeinde* (Place and Work of Women in the Community; Teubner Verlag, Leipzig) and, in 1918, *Das kommunale Wahlrecht der Frauen in den deutschen Bundesstaaten* (Municipal Suffrage for Women in the German Federal States) from the same publisher. She was a member of the Central Association of German Citizens of Jewish Faith. Since her youth she had suffered from a cardiac condition, and towards the end of her life she was bedridden. After dying a "peaceful death", as her obituary put it, she was buried next to her husband.

(r.b.)



52 Urn fields

Although burials predominate in the Weissensee cemetery, the new *Burial and Cemetery Regulations for the Berlin Jewish Community* issued on 9 February 1909 permitted urn interments as well. In 1909 this demonstrated a very progressive attitude, as in Prussia it was not until 1891 that the burial of urns containing the ashes of the dead was allowed. Even then the cremation had to take place outside the country, as cremation in Prussia was not allowed until 1911 with the passing of the cremation law. The first crematorium in Berlin was opened in the Gerichtstrasse in Wedding in 1912. The first interment of cremated remains took place in the Jewish cemetery at Weissensee at 3 p.m. on Sunday, 21 February 1909. At first the cemetery regulations stipulated that "the interment of the urn must take place in a coffin", which would then be buried in the normal burial grounds. It was only in 1926 that urns came to be interred in fields allocated for the purpose.

(r.b./f.l.)



53

Field of Honour for the Jewish soldiers killed in the First World War

Design: Alexander Beer

Born 10 September 1873 in Hammerstein

Died 8 May 1944 in Theresienstadt concentration camp

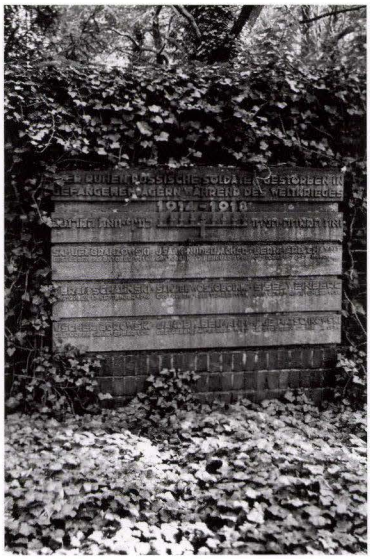


In 1914/15, at the beginning of the First World War, the Jewish community had a Field of Honour laid out behind the new Hall of Mourning for the Jewish war dead according to a design by the Community Architect, Alexander Beer. The field, measuring 49 x 90 metres, is enclosed by a wall made of Rüdersdorf limestone. The 3-metre-high central monument erected in 1926 in the form of a huge altar with the reclining lion above the inscription on the front was endowed by the Reich Confederation of Jewish Frontline Soldiers (RjF).

The first dead soldier to find his way to Weissensee was Rifleman Sally Perlmann (30 May 1884 – 12 October 1914). A total of 394 Jewish soldiers from the First World War, including those who later succumbed to their injuries – the last interment of a Great War invalid took place in 1941 – found their final resting place here.

After 1945 there was no private gravesite care, as the relatives of those buried here were either murdered or scattered all over the world. This and staff shortages caused the Field of Honour to be increasingly neglected. It was restored between 1995 and 1998 at the initiative of the Bundeswehr with the financial support of the German War Graves Commission, the Berlin Senate's Department of Urban Development, the Berlin Jewish Community, and the Axel-Springer Foundation. This saved it from succumbing to decay and oblivion.

(r.b./f.l.)



54 Russian soldiers, 1914–1918 and 1945

Field W 4

Behind the Grove of Honour for the German Jewish frontline soldiers who were killed in the First World War there are also nine graves of Russian soldiers who died as prisoners-of-war in German camps in Berlin. They are the former tailor, Isaak Nudelmacher, who was killed by a falling tree at the age of 26 while felling trees in the Grunewald Forest; the merchant Bernhard Chaynt, who died at the age of 36 from an attack of paralysis; the former bookbinder Abram Shalinski, who was mentally ill and died at the age of 26 from cardiac insufficiency; the Jewish soldier Samuel Woskoboinik, who died at the age of 24 of tuberculosis; the soldier Usher Borovski, who died at the age of 35 of pneumonia; the tailor-cutter Sisel Weinberg, who died of influenza (the day of his burial – 8 November – was his 23rd birthday); the former merchant Jakob Abelmann, who died at the age of 30 of tuberculosis in the POW camp hospital; the former leather-worker Ilya Machkovski, who died at the age of 34 from stomach cancer; and the prisoner-of-war Samuel Branzhovski, who died at the age of 37. A stone tablet on the wall behind the graves commemorates the Russian soldiers.

On 13 May 1945, shortly after the liberation of Berlin, a 28-year-old Soviet soldier called Mikhail Bodyana died in the Jewish hospital of an abdominal wound. His religion, his vocation and his place of residence are unknown. Rabbi Martin Riesenburger writes in his memoirs: "At a place of honour a mound rises over his grave and a monument proclaims his name. Perhaps a faithful mother weeps for him from afar."

(r.b.)



55

Hans Aronson

Medical practitioner, fighter against diphtheria, founder of the Aronson Prize

Born 28 November 1865 in Königsberg (East Prussia) (now Kaliningrad, Russia)

Died 8 March 1919 in Berlin

Wall opposite Field A 5, family plot 2722, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



Hans Aronson studied medicine and took his doctorate in Berlin. A great influence on him was the serologist and Nobel Laureate Paul Ehrlich (1854-1915), who developed an effective remedy for syphilis. Aronson headed the Bacteriological Department of Chemische Fabrik Schering from 1893 to 1909. He is considered a pioneer of private research and concentrated mainly on the development of antitoxins and anti-toxic serums for such widespread diseases of the day as diphtheria, tuberculosis, cholera and scarlet fever. Despite his successes he was not satisfied with research on its own. He resigned from Schering and settled in Berlin-Charlottenburg as a medical practitioner. This enabled him to save many children who had caught diphtheria with a serum he had developed himself. Apart from his professional career he was also remarkable in other ways, being a great sportsman with a special enthusiasm for mountaineering and motor racing. In his will Aronson bequeathed 500,000 marks as capital for a prize to be awarded to outstanding scientists in the field of bacteriology and experimental therapy. After his death the money was placed in the "Professor Hans Aronson Foundation". The post-war inflation swept away almost the whole of the Foundation's capital, whereupon Aronson's wife Rosa sold all her possessions: jewellery, porcelain, artworks. This saved the Foundation, but she got no thanks for it. Her biography tells us that she died in an old people's home "in poverty and broken in spirit". Since 1970 the Aronson Prize has been awarded by the City of Berlin. Recipients include German researchers who have distinguished themselves in the fight against the HIV virus infection.

(r.b.)



56

Carl Bieber

Theatrical director

Born 21 April 1869 in Potsdam

Died 23 November 1925 in Berlin

Field H 4, family plot 1933

The tomb ensemble for the theatrical director Carl Bieber was commissioned by his wife Selma Bieber and erected in 1926 according to a design by the sculptor Hans Dammann (1867-1942). The tomb is made of pale grey granite in the form of a monumental arch: located between two posts is the walled-up door to the Beyond, enriched by a copper electrotype flower bowl standing on a plinth. Also remarkable for their design and execution are the festoons at the sides composed of tufts of oak and laurel leaves, which are also copper electrotype sculptures. In 2007 the tomb was restored out of federal and state funds. The restoration work included the cleaning and conservation of all metal applications such as festoons, bead mouldings, rose-windows, and the flower bowl as well as the replacement of the missing bronze letters of the inscription. Other works by Hans Dammann in Weissensee include the tombs of Louis Pakuscher (Field C 3), Sally Warschauer (c. 1910, Field E 3) and Theodor Teppich (c. 1913, Field F 1). After 1916 Hans Dammann extended his work in the field of sepulchral art to military graves, and in the Weimar Republic he devoted himself almost exclusively to the further development of this theme in war memorials.

(j.k./f.l.)



57

Samuel Fischer

Bookseller, publisher

Born 24 December 1859 in Liptó Szent Miklós (Hungary) (now Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia)

Died 15 October 1934 in Berlin

Field J 4, family plot 2001



Thomas Mann writes of Samuel Fischer: "I was an eleven-year-old child when he founded his publishing house in Berlin. Ten years later it was the dream of every young man of letters to have a book published by S. Fischer." In 1901 Fischer published the novel *Buddenbrooks* in a two-volume edition. This work was the greatest bestseller to be issued by S. Fischer Verlag. Fischer had been born in Upper Hungary, where he attended a private Jewish grammar school until he was 14. After that he went to Vienna, where he learned and practised the bookseller's trade. In 1880 he went to Berlin where he became a partner in the Hugo Steinitz bookshop in 1883. At the age of 26 Fischer went into business for himself, founding his own publishing house in 1886. The first book he published was Ibsen's drama *Rosmersholm*. After that he published many famous authors such as Zola, Tolstoy, and Dostoyevsky. Because he published quality books at low prices, he was able to tap new readerships for such authors as Theodor Fontane or Thomas Mann. After the First World War relations to foreign authors deteriorated. Samuel Fischer married Hedwig Landshoff (1871-1952) in 1893. Both had very different personalities. Hedwig Fischer sought and cultivated contacts with friends and relatives, whereas Samuel Fischer preferred a more retiring life. Their son Gerhart died when he was only 19. In 1926 their daughter Brigitte married the surgeon Gottfried Bermann, who succeeded Samuel Fischer as head of the publishing house, becoming managing director and proprietor in due course.

(r.b.)



58

Site of the destroyed New Hall of Mourning (Trauerhalle)



In 1910, in view of the length of the paths through the cemetery, a second Hall of Mourning was erected roughly in the middle of it. The design of the cupola was by the Community Architect Johann Hoeniger (1850-1913). The inauguration of the New Hall took place on 13 January 1911, and in the following year a waiting room and floral hall were added, so that funeral ceremonies could be held in both halls at once. Between 1943 and 1945 there were 51 serious and 17 minor cases of bomb damage to the cemetery. In one bombing raid the New Hall of Mourning and the adjacent building were burned to the ground. In 1980 some of the ruins were demolished, while the rest were covered over with earth to form a hill. The gravestones on both sides of the grass-covered hill come from the cemetery of the Jewish Reform Community in Gehsener Strasse, Köpenick, which was cleared in 1961. The architect Johann Hoeniger is buried not far from the covered-over remains of the New Hall of Mourning. At the edge of Field D 4, Row 3, a simple stone marks his grave, which was restored in 2003 for the Förderverein Jüdischer Friedhof Berlin-Weissensee e.V.

(r.b./f.l.)



59

Leonhard Emil Bach

Court pianist, music teacher, composer

Born 11 March 1849 in Posen

Died 15 February 1902 in London

Field W 2, family plot 1269

The family vault of the Posen-born court pianist Leonhard Emil Bach lies on the main path and is made of black polished granite. Still recognizable is the bronze capsule which originally contained the portrait of the virtuoso pianist, which has now disappeared. This was in breach of the biblical ban on images. With the increasing assimilation of the Jews into the surrounding society these violations became increasingly frequent. Even the use of such capsules to keep the portrait hidden from profane eyes was not permitted, as this made it all the clearer that this lifeless portrait was supposed to be worshipped. Despite all the bans, however, portraits were added in several cases. The Royal Prussian Court pianist Bach was a professor at the Guildhall School in London from 1882 up to his death. This music and drama school, founded in London in 1880, belongs to the city, which finances it. To this day the school is one of the world's leading institutions for the subjects of Music, Opera, Theatre, Theatre Management and Theatre Engineering. Leonhard Emil Bach composed several operas: *Irmengarda* (1892), *The Lady of Langford* (1894), *Des Königs Garde* (1895) and *Das Tabakskollegium* as well as several piano pieces.

(r.b.)



60

Joseph Hirschmann

Factory owner

Born 2/15 (according to the gravestone) December 1839 in Goldingen (now Kuldīga, Latvia)

Died 26 February 1905 in Nice

Field S 2, family plot 1119 and 1119a

Buried in the Hirschmann/Burchardt double sepulchre are the factory owner Joseph Hirschmann and his wife Charlotte née Tietzner (1843-1925), both of Goldingen in what was then Courland, as well as the merchant Ernst Burchardt (1856-1928), who died of a stroke while vacationing in Pörtschach on Lake Wörther and whose remains were transferred to Weissensee. Not only the Field of Honour for Jewish soldiers killed in the First World War commemorates the Jewish citizens who gave their lives for "Emperor and Fatherland", but also a great number of individual graves and private memorial stones, such as the stele decked with helmet and laurel before the simple grave wall of shell limestone on the left side of the sepulchre. The inscription reads: *In memory of our unforgettable son and brother Waldemar Burchardt – born 23 November 1894 – fell 17 December 1917 at Monte Piano, missing in action.* In contrast to the stone wall the right side of the sepulchre is dominated by a high wrought iron grave wall. The entire tomb ensemble is enclosed by a massive lattice of square bars. The ornamentation of the grave wall and latticework successfully combines Jewish symbolism with Art Nouveau and Art Deco forms. The heavily corroded ironwork of the tomb ensemble was restored with federal and state funds in 1997.

(f.l.)



61

Jacques Heymann Goldschmidt

Banker

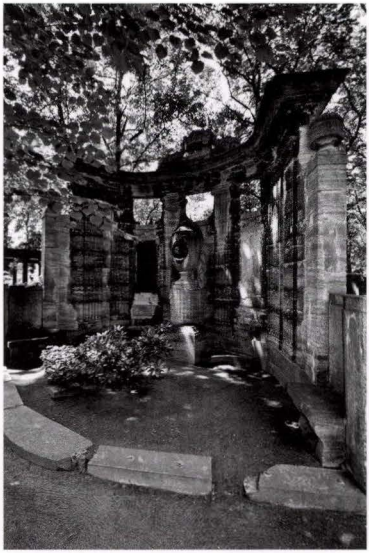
Born 12 August 1842 in Amsterdam

Died 15 November 1911 in Berlin

Field S 2, family plot 1306

The gravesite was acquired by the family of J. H. Goldschmidt after the death of the unmarried son, Albert Heinrich Goldschmidt, in March 1907. That same year saw the transfer of the remains of Georg Adolf Benedict Goldschmidt, a son who had died as an infant in 1876, from the Schönhauser Allee cemetery to the new family plot at Weissensee. Also buried here are the head of the family, Dr. Isaac (known as Jacques) Heymann Goldschmidt, and his wife Jeanne Goldschmidt (1855-1915). A commemorative volume listing the Nazis' Jewish victims in Berlin (*Gedenkbuch Berlins der jüdischen Opfer des Nationalsozialismus : "Ihre Namen mögen nie vergessen werden!"*) that appeared in 1995, records the Goldschmidt sons, Dr. Eugen Goldschmidt and Dr. Arthur Goldschmidt, who are both buried in the gravesite, having taken their own lives on 13 November 1938, evidently as a direct result of the so-called *Reichskristallnacht* pogrom of 9 November 1938. Although the columned architecture of the Neoclassical tomb, restored in 1999, is based on the classical model of the round temple (monopteros), the unknown architect has found a remarkable architectural solution, given the unfavourable shape of the plot and the flattened oval ground plan of the tomb. Only a closer inspection reveals the uneven number of columns, the expected twelfth column having been dispensed with so as to create a centrally positioned access to the interior from the front. The skilful arrangement of the 11 slender columns successfully conceals this architectural irregularity.

(j.k./f.l.)



62

Berthold Kempinski

Wine merchant, hotelier, restaurateur

Born 10 October 1843 in Raschkow (Posen) (now Raszków, Poland)

Died 14 March 1910 in Berlin

Field T 2, family plot 1617, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin

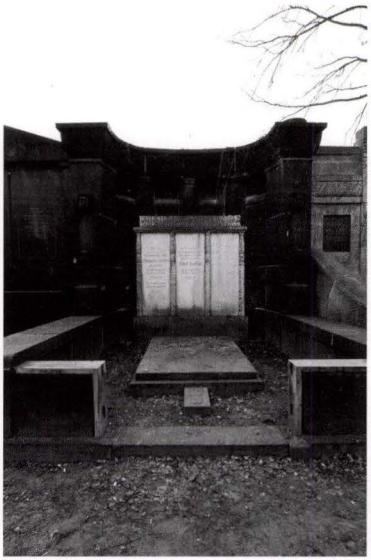


After completing school the man who gave his name to the Kempinski luxury hotel chain, Berthold Kempinski, went to work in the wine shop of his brother. In 1872 he came to Berlin with his wife Helene and opened a wine and delicatessen shop in Friedrichstrasse. He was so successful that in 1889 he was able to open a restaurant at 25 Leipziger Strasse with several rooms on four floors. It was the biggest of its kind in Berlin. Even the Emperor William II appeared for the grand opening of the magnificent establishment. On some days the restaurant had up to ten thousand guests, while 200 kilograms of lobster, 18,000 crabs, 100 kilograms of caviar, and 10,000 bottles of wine were consumed. All visitors were welcome, and people from all walks of life were to be seen here. With his idea of "half portions at half price" Kempinski wanted to promote luxury for all. The establishment was even celebrated in the following quatrain:

First of all, it's not too pricy,
Secondly, the grub is swell,
Third, you'll find familiar faces,
Fourthly, you'll be seen as well!

This is probably still true today, for "Kempinski" on the Kurfürstendamm is still a popular rendezvous in Berlin. Kempinski's son-in-law, Richard Unger, soon assumed the management, as the Kempinskis had no male descendent. It was a condition that the name Kempinski be preserved. In the Nazi period the company was "Aryanized". Since 1970 the hotel has belonged to Hotelbetrieb AG, which operates numerous luxury hotels worldwide under the name of Kempinski.

(r.b.)



63

Adolf Jandorf

Merchant, department store founder, Commercial Councillor

Born 7 February 1870 in Hengstfeld (Württemberg)

Died 12 January 1932 in Berlin

Wall opposite Field T 2, family plot 1220, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



At the early age of twenty Adolf Jandorf went to study the latest sales techniques in the USA. In 1892 he opened in Berlin's Spittelmarkt the Hamburger Engros-Lager, a special store for haberdashery, linen goods, woollens and embroideries. Jandorf opened other department stores in Berlin, in the Brunnenstrasse, for example. A coat of arms with three bees on the façade represents Jandorf's philosophy: first diligence, then honey, bee-like busy-ness and national consciousness. In 1907, at a cost of 20 million marks, he founded the largest department store (in German "Kaufhaus") in Germany, the Kaufhaus des Westens, known as KaDeWe for short. Built along the lines of American department stores, KaDeWe brought together many specialist stores under one roof. This luxury department store had a modern pneumatic dispatch system, which linked the 150 cash desks to the central cash desk, it had electric light at a time when this was far from a matter of course, elevators, a *bureau de change*, and a hairdressing salon for ladies and gentlemen. The delicatessen floor was unique, and even today its fame is not confined to Berlin. In the roof garden customers could relax in deck chairs as though they were on an ocean liner. The five-storey department store had a sales floor space of 24,000 square metres. At the beginning of the 20th century the site near the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächniskirche was still far from Berlin's city centre, but the opening of KaDeWe gave rise to a new and modern downtown area that attained world renown. In 1926 Jandorf sold his company to the Hermann Tietz concern. Today KaDeWe, with around 60,000 square metres of sales floor space and a range of 380,000 articles, is the second largest department store in Europe.

(r.b.)



64

Hermann Fränkel

Factory owner, Persian Consul

Born 17 May 1844 in Neustadt (Upper Silesia)
(now Prudnik, Poland)

Died 22 May 1901 in Berlin

Wall opposite Field M 2, family plot 876



Hermann Fränkel came from an Upper Silesian family of entrepreneurs which before the First World War was among the world's largest manufacturers of linen goods. His commercial contacts led to his appointment as Imperial Persian Consul. His wife Flora Fränkel, née Alexander (1853-1929) was also a native of Neustadt, where she had been a member of the Executive of the National Women's Association (VFV), a division of the Red Cross. She continued her good works in the VFV in Berlin's Charlottenburg, where they included the setting up of workers' gardens on land acquired by the Association from the city at a low rent. In 1913 the Association had in Charlottenburg over 1,045 gardens, which were mainly allotted to the parents of large families. Her work for the VFV earned Flora Fränkel the sobriquet of "Mother of the Workers' Gardens". The design for the wall tomb erected in 1902 is by the Erdmann & Spindler firm of architects. The tomb's main adornment is the cupola of chased aluminium bronze in the shape of a mourning canopy, done by the Berlin engraver Otto Scheer. The lavish Art Nouveau decor of the cupola's blossoms and leaves was repeated in the latticework enclosing the site, which has sadly not survived, although it has been recorded in a photograph that appeared in the periodical *Berliner Architekturwelt* of 1904.

(F.I.)



65

Jacob Hirschberg

Merchant

Born 25 December 1838 in Gnesen (Posen) (now Gniezno, Poland)

Died 2 December 1919 in Berlin

Field L 2, family plot 514

The tomb of the Hirschberg family, restored in 1997 with a grant of the German environmental foundation Bundesstiftung Umwelt, is an impressive testimonial to the links between 19th century German Christian cemetery architecture and traditional Jewish symbolism, such as the Star of David in the gable of the aedicule and the parokhet (Torah curtain) artfully executed in marble. In the synagogues there are shrines screened by curtains behind which the handwritten Torah scrolls containing the five books of Moses are kept. The Torah curtains are usually of silk or satin and elaborately embroidered. On this curtain a pair of lions, the tablets of the law, and a crown are represented. Carved into the tablets of the law are the Ten Commandments, the "Tables of the Covenant" that Moses received. Traditionally the initial letters of the Ten Commandments are to be seen on the tablets in Hebrew script, reading from right to left. Here, in a departure from Jewish tradition, the Commandments are indicated by Roman numerals which are read from left to right.

(r.b./f.l.)



66

Willy Hirsch

Pharmacist

Born 1 March 1853 in Stargard (Pomerania)

Died 30 May 1895 in Falkenstein (Taunus)

Field L 2, family plot 528

The pharmacist Dr. Wilhelm (Willy) Hirsch and his wife Paula née Wygodzinski (1862-1920) lie under two burial mounds which are overlaid by a domed structure of hard black stone that is open on three sides. The latticework lining the path has not survived. Erected on a roughly square ground plan, the structure is overarched by an octagonal cupola with elaborate sheet copper decorations. An opaion, also octagonal, adorned with wrought iron lattice-work, allows light from the cupola into the interior. The back wall bears the inscriptions and, most remarkably, a constellation – the Plough – with a single twelve-pointed star, six larger six-pointed and eight smaller four-pointed stars. A long dedication accompanies the stars, whose significance – over and above the reference to the eternal firmament – is to be sought in the biography of those buried here. From the inscription for Paula Hirsch, daughter of Max Wygodzinski (1833-1909) and Nanny née Sorauer (1836-1920), the observer can glean that the young widow married again. The non-Jewish artist Professor Heinrich Maass (1860-1930), who called his Paula "Lotte", gave his consent that his deceased wife Paula Maass "should be buried" at Weissensee "next to her first husband, Dr. Willy Hirsch". The architect of the tomb, whose form is suggestive of a Jewish mourning canopy, is unknown.

(j.k.)

67



Bernhard Loeser

Cigar manufacturer, Richard Wagner fan

Born 17 April 1835 in Quedlinburg

Died 2 May 1901 in Berlin

Field E 2, family plot 873



In 1865, together with Karl Wolff, Bernhard Loeser, a former staff sergeant in the 10th Hussar Regiment, opened a small cigar shop in Berlin's Alexanderplatz which later rose to become the biggest cigar factory in Europe. In their joint enterprise Wolff was in charge of the retail side, while Loeser oversaw the wholesale business. In 1874 Loeser managed to buy a factory near Danzig, where they could make their own cigars for the Berlin shop. With a work force of over 3,000 people the factory acquired a world reputation, so that other branches could be opened in Braunsberg, Marienburg, Stargard and Bremen. The firm of Loeser & Wolff was known for its exemplary treatment of its employees. There was a pension scheme, a health fund and accident insurance. There was also a company-owned savings bank that paid 8% interest on savings. At the 1880 World Exhibition in Melbourne the cigars of Loeser & Wolff won First Prize. In 1895 Loeser was awarded the title of Royal Commercial Councillor. Loeser had his business premises at Alexanderplatz built by the famous architect Franz Heinrich Schwechten (1841-1924), who had also designed the railway station Anhalter Bahnhof and the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche. Loeser was also a great patron of the arts, founding the Richard Wagner Association and giving financial support to the Bayreuth Wagner Fund. Wagner thanked him for this on several occasions. The maestro corresponded with the merchant and dedicated a score in his *Tannhäuser* to him.

(r.b.)



68

Moritz Becker

Industrialist, inventor, amber producer

Born 1 May 1830 in Danzig

Died 26 August 1901 in Heringsdorf

Wall opposite Field E 2, family plot 839



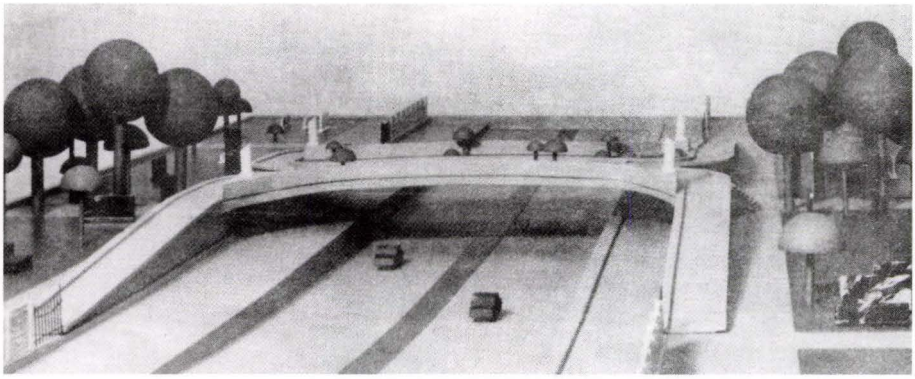
Born in humble circumstances on the Baltic coast, Moritz Becker devoted his life to amber. Perhaps the most famous product made of amber is the Amber Room which the Prussian king presented to the Russian tsar, Peter the Great, in 1716. Becker's main contribution was to industrialize the extraction of amber. The primitive method of working consisted in scraping amber out of the earth or fishing it out of the sea with nets. Becker began to extract amber with dredgers at the Curische Nehrung, a sand-bar off Courland. A turning point came when the amber ceased to be prised free from the beach, but was stripped off the sea bed by divers. The greatest innovation came in 1874, when amber began to be mined at a place called Palmnicken in the Samland. Becker built up the largest industrial firm in East Prussia, with more than 2,000 workers. He had engine rooms, a factory and homes for the workers built. Becker, who had now been awarded the title of Privy Commercial Councillor, also built a unique amber museum, since which time he has been considered the father of East Prussian amber extraction. In 1899 the Prussian state acquired the entire company and the museum. In the last years of his life Becker lived first in Vienna, then in Berlin. He died aged 71 while taking a cure in Heringsdorf. The design for the Becker family vault, built in clear, Cubist forms, is by the Dresden architect Martin Dülfer (1859-1942), who is mainly known for his theatrical buildings, such as the Stadttheater in Duisburg.

(r.b.)

69

Former road construction plans

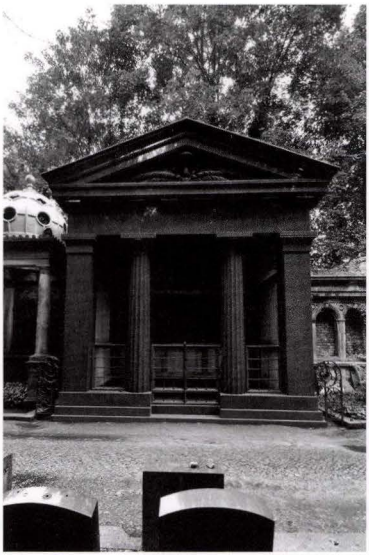
Site of the planned road 90



Since the end of the 19th century there had been a plan to build a connecting road on a strip of the cemetery grounds measuring about 40 metres wide and 300 metres long. This would have cut the cemetery into two parts. In the 1920s the Berlin municipal authorities obtained the Jewish Community's agreement to a transfer of title to the necessary site, which meant that no burials took place there. In the 1980s these plans to build a road, now under consideration by the GDR government, ran into difficulties. A little later, in a study made in 1986 a working party set up by the Berlin City Council presented four possible solutions: a fly-over, a tunnel, an embankment or an expressway through a cutting with a bridge for pedestrians. The fourth variant was chosen.

In order to leave no stone unturned in the efforts to prevent this brutal encroachment on the cemetery grounds, the Chairman of the Berlin Jewish Community, Heinz Galinski, wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Council of State of the GDR and General Secretary of the SED, Erich Honecker, pointing out that during the Nazi period about 1,200 Jews had been living illegally in Berlin hidden by people who had granted them refuge. A large number of these illegal residents died, and they were secretly buried at night at great risk on the site of the planned road, as the said site was not under surveillance. This meant that these graves could not be marked. Honecker wrote back to Galinski, promising to refrain from any construction measures that threatened the integrity of the cemetery. In 1988 the site was restored to the Jewish Community.

(r.b.)



70

Rudolf Mosse

Publisher and bookseller, publisher, landowner

Born 8 May 1843 in Grätz (Posen) (now Grodzisk Wielkopolski, Poland)

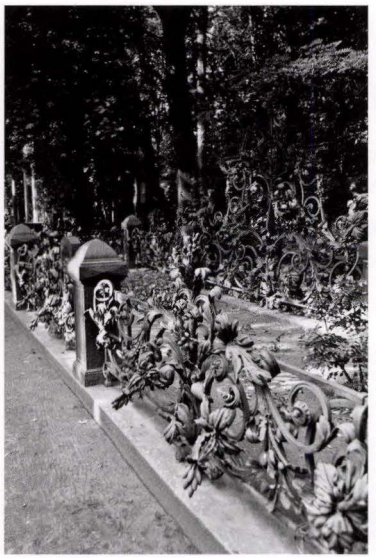
Died 8 September 1920 in Schenkendorf

Wall opposite Field M 1, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



Rudolf Mosse was one of 14 children of the country doctor Markus Moses and his wife Ulrike, who at some time changed their name to Mosse. The children were brought up to observe the middle class virtues of thrift, modesty, orderliness, diligence, honesty, self-confidence and responsibility. When their father died in 1865, the mother moved with the children to Berlin. Rudolf had completed an apprenticeship as a bookseller, worked in various publishing houses, and become advertising editor of the periodical *Gartenlaube* (Summerhouse). He soon realized that the future belonged to advertising. By the time he was 23 he had already gone solo with his Rudolf Mosse advertising agency. In this way an institution was created that mediated between business and the press. The German Reich flourished, and Mosse founded the *Berliner Tageblatt*. He remained neutral on ideological or political issues, thus successfully attracting a wide range of readers. The *Ulk* supplement stood for humour and satire, having an outstanding staff that included Kurt Tucholsky. Mosse expanded his international business. He published the first telephone directory, the *Deutsches Reichs-Adressbuch*, indispensable for trade and business. Mosse also supported good causes. He and his wife founded a girls' hostel and set up the Rudolf Mosse Foundation to support women who wished to study law. He created a pension fund for employees, had a hospital built in the town of his birth, and opened an educational establishment for 100 children in Berlin. The organizations were created for members of all confessions. He was a member of the Jewish Reform Community in Berlin. Mosse built a palatial residence at Potsdamer Platz and acquired the Schenkendorf estate, where he died in 1920.

(r.b.)



71

Moritz Israel

Merchant

Born 11 July 1830 in Berlin

Died 23 February 1895 in Berlin

Field M 1, family plot 508



The merchant Moritz Israel, who lived at 18 Bellevuestrasse, was the son of Nathan Israel and hence one of the co-owners of the N. Israel department store founded in Berlin in 1815. The Israel family had come to Berlin in 1740 and forged ties to the Riess family which had already immigrated from Austria in the 17th century. After the death of their father Moritz worked alongside his brother Jacob Israel (1823-1894) in the management, but later let himself be bought out, whereupon he acquired the Schulzendorf estate near Wriezen in 1888. His son Richard and daughter-in-law Bianca née Cohn (1870-1963) of the Mosse family had five children. Only one of the sons, the landowner Dr. Walter Israel (1892-1932), was, unlike his father and siblings, buried next to his grandfather. In 1963 the urn of his mother was transferred here from Hanover, and in 1968 the urn of his widow Änne née Uchtmann from Schmargendorf. Located in a corner, the sepulchre is contoured by grey granite thresholds. Eight posts of speckled red granite form the architectural frame for a magnificent wrought iron lattice-work enclosure whose clear basic construction, elevated at equal intervals, is in many cases overlaid and crossed by floral elements. Neo-Baroque winding tendrils and hibiscus blossoms form the main motif of the lattice decorations. The rear lattice is designed as a raised ornamental screen and bears in the middle the monogram M I. The creator of this tomb, which was restored in 1998 with federal and state funds, is unknown.

(j.k.)



72

Louis Lewin

Pharmacologist, narcotics expert

Born 9 November 1850 in Tuchel (West Prussia) (now Tuchola, Poland)

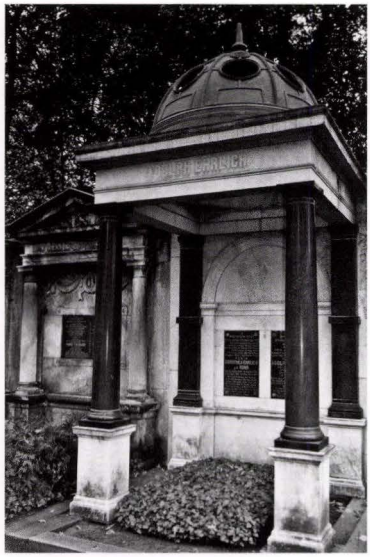
Died 1 December 1929 in Berlin

Field M 1, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



Professor Lewin is still remembered today for his pioneering research in the fields of toxicology and narcotics, while his books are either being reprinted or appearing in new editions. The family of the shoemaker Hirsch Lewin had come to Berlin in 1856 and lived in the Scheunenviertel quarter in very modest circumstances. The son Louis attended the Jewish Community school. Some of the teachers recognized the boy's gifts and enabled him to attend Friedrichswerder's Gymnasium (grammar school). This enabled him to study medicine at Berlin's Charité and take his doctorate at the age of 25. Louis Lewin did his military service and went to Munich, where he worked under the hygienist Max von Pettenkofer. It was there he got the inspiration for his handbook *Nebenwirkungen der Arzneimittel* (Side Effects of Medicines). In 1881 he qualified as a lecturer in Berlin. In 1893 he was awarded the title of professor. In 1883 he married Clara Bernhardine Wolff (1857-1942), with whom he had three daughters. He led a comfortable middle-class life in the Berlin district of Tiergarten. As Lewin did not have himself baptized, academic honours that had long been his due were refused him. In 1887 he went to the USA and Canada for two months. While there he studied poisons and drugs. He brought back with him a hallucinogen obtained from cacti in order to continue his researches. Back in Berlin he rented an apartment which he used as a laboratory and classroom, giving courses of lectures on the subjects of pharmacology and toxicology. Not until 1919 was he appointed a lecturer. In 1922, at the age of 72, he received a lectureship – without the usual civil service status, of course.

(r.b.)



73

Adolph Ehrlich

Timber wholesaler

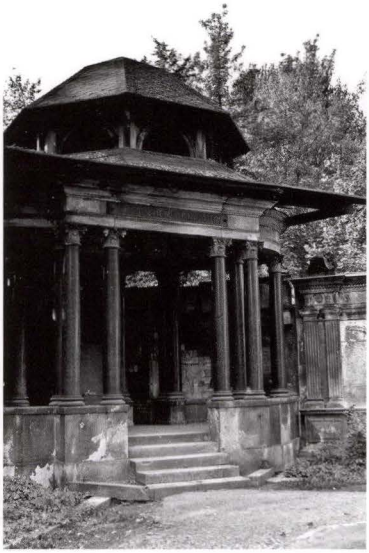
Born 3 December 1817 in Neustadt (West Prussia) (now Wejherowo, Poland)

Died 25 June 1883 in Berlin

Wall opposite Field C 1, family plot 66

The tomb of Adolph Ehrlich was commissioned by his wife, Dorothea Ehrlich, née Rohr (Pleschen 1823-1894 Berlin), the design and execution being entrusted to the sculptors Herrnberg & Seemann, from whose workshop came the tomb ensembles flanking the Ehrlich tomb. In formal terms we are again confronted by the type of the canopied tomb. The design of the back wall, so reminiscent of a classical arch of triumph, is taken up again in the arrangement of the Torah curtains. The Jewish symbol of the Star of David, an element taken from classical Judaism, is surrounded by oak leaves and laurel wreaths. The oak leaves may be seen as an indication of the patriotic loyalty of the deceased to his German fatherland. What is interesting about this tomb is the duality of Jewish and Christian symbols, which is also reflected in the bilingual inscriptions. The tomb of Adolph and Dorothea Ehrlich may be seen as a typical monument of assimilated Judaism in Imperial Germany, although the allegiance to Judaism is more strongly emphasized than in later tomb designs.

(j.k./f.l.)



74

Albert Ascher Michaelis

Merchant

Born 27 March 1829 in Gülzow (Pomerania)
(now Golczewo, Poland)

Died 27 April 1883 in Berlin

Wall opposite Field C 1, family plot 55b

The merchant Ascher Albert Michaelis and his wife Cäcilie née Friedemann (1827-1907) lie together with other members of the Meyer and Michaelis families under a elaborate sepulchre. The architect August Orth (1828-1901) designed the structure – which is brilliantly adapted to its corner position in the style of the Italian High Renaissance – in 1884. On a high podium with steps cut into the middle of it there arises over a roughly oval ground plan the centralized, open hall with its sixteen Corinthian columns. The tambour overarching the central space of the octagonal ground plan is organized into crescent-shaped arches. In keeping with the taste of the imperial period, various coloured materials are effectively combined with one another. The pale grey or yellowish sandstone, the polished dark granite pillars with bright capitals, the red of the ceramic wall cladding, and the white of the ceramic cladding of the vault, contrast with the bright and dark colours of the inscription plaques as well as with the bright colour of the sand covering the floor of the hall. This sand is intended to indicate that the deceased, in accordance with tradition, have been buried in the earth. Today little remains of the wrought iron lattice with a two-wing door opening onto the path, which originally barred access to the steps. The same goes for the lavish decorative vegetation, which is photographically documented. In 1996 the tomb received a broad provisional emergency roof paid for by the Heritage Fund.

(j.k.)



75 Camilla Levi

Born 6 July 1882 in Berlin

Died 25 March 1901 in Berlin

Field C 1, family plot 144

Camilla Levi died at the age of 18. Her sepulchre, which also contains the remains of Wanda Levi née Tarlau (1857-1904), is enclosed on three sides by a wall rising up to the right. By the path stand posts with fluted shafts that were formerly linked by chains. The main adornment of the sepulchre is a high column, whose plinth of hard stone is thrust into the rear enclosing wall as a block. Resting on the plinth is an intermediate member decorated with volutes and classical-style floral motifs, which serves the column as a support. The column with an Ionic-type capital – whose stylistic models are to be sought in the 18th century – supports an ornamental urn with a lid. The interior of the tomb is dominated by two slabs. The formal model for this columned monument could have been taken from classical memorial or consecration structures. The tomb of 22-year-old Aesquilia Polla – the wife of N. Herenius Celsus, an influential figure at the time of Augustus – excavated in 1907 from the Necropolis at the Porta Nola in Pompeii, might also conceivably have been the model, for it consists of an Ionic column surmounted by a cinerary urn and surrounded by a walled enclosure in the form of an exedra. Columns topped by urn vases have also been found in sepulchral art since the Renaissance, as in St. Denis Cathedral near Paris and in smaller, Neoclassical examples in European cemeteries. The architect of this tomb, erected circa 1910, may have been Ernst Eberhard von Ihne (1848-1917).

(j.k.)

76



Gustav Frenkel

Banker

Born 16 June 1846 in Witzenhausen (Hesse)

Died 2 March 1882 in Berlin

Wall opposite Field B 1, family plot 34

When Gustav Frenkel, the son of the banker Samuel Frenkel who had been employed in the family business, died at the early age of 35, his family approached the Berlin Architects' Association with the request to hold a competition for a family vault among the Association's members as one of their regular monthly competitions. Specifications included the length and breadth of the vault; the use of sandstone as construction material; an upper limit of 5,000 marks for the construction costs; and accommodation for seven graves. As the entries submitted in September 1882 did not bring the desired result, there followed a second and even a third monthly competition, until in January 1883 the young architect Alfred Messel (1853-1909) finally put forward a convincing design. The Frenkel family vault was the first project to be realized by Alfred Messel, who later achieved fame with his department store structures, such as those for Wertheim at Leipziger Platz (destroyed in the Second World War). The design submitted by Messel is almost identical with the grave wall built in Neo-Renaissance style. The construction of the Frenkel tomb was carried out by Carl Schilling, Stonemasons, with whom Messel later collaborated in connection with the buildings at Leipziger Platz.

(f.l.)



77

Samuel Bellachini

Conjurer, illusionist

Born 1 May 1827 in Ligota (Poland)

Died 24 January 1885 in Parchim

Field E 1, Row 18



In the 19th century Samuel Bellachini, whose real name was Samuel Berlach, was one of the most famous conjurers in Germany. He was born the son of an innkeeper in the Polish village of Ligota. At the age of 14 he fled as a stowaway to America, but later returned to Europe. In Lisbon he joined a travelling gypsy troupe, accompanying them from one fair to another and learning how to do all sorts of tricks. Bellachini then set up on his own and went about performing his tricks at markets and in restaurants. When he had earned enough money, he returned to Poland and made his first stage appearance there at the age of sixteen. For the next 40 years he travelled about and had great success as a conjurer in various countries, but above all in Germany. He described his popular performances as "Egyptian Magic". His main speciality was show effects, such as plucking hens' eggs from the mouth of his assistant or beheading him onstage. Bellachini accompanied all this with an extremely humorous torrent of words in his broken German, which appealed to the simple tastes of his audiences. As the Emperor William I was also considered to be a man of "simple tastes" and as he happened to be taking a cure at Bad Gastein where Bellachini was appearing, he wanted to go to one of his performances. After inviting the Emperor to perform a trick with him onstage, Bellachini was allowed to style himself Court Conjurer from then on. As the name "Bellachini" was so well known, at least 60 conjurers called themselves "Bellachini" later on.

(r.b.)



78

Louis Steinthal

Banker

Born 11 July 1825 in Cönnern (Sachsen-Anhalt)

Died 8 August 1885 in Berlin

Field B 1, family plot 124

The family plot of the banker Louis Steinthal is one of the few surviving wrought iron works in the cemetery. The grave wall standing on a stone plinth is divided up into 11 axes, in which wrought iron ornamental compartments alternate with the fields for inscribed tablets. Above the inscribed tablets is an overarching lattice, while the three intermediate axes are given particular prominence. The symbol of the Star of David, here enclosed in a circle, is the main decorative motif of the lattice. An example of Historicism, the tomb exhibits Neo-Baroque forms, while the arches over the inscription plaques may be seen as a formal borrowing from historical Baroque or Neoclassical grave steles of traditional design. During the 2008 restoration the lattice-work of the grave wall had its original colouring restored to it, including the historically documented gilding of the central symbol of the structure. A year earlier the adjacent Hirsch tomb ensemble was successfully rescued from decay and the wrought iron back wall restored. For this as for the Steinthal tomb federal and state funds were made available.

(j.k./f.l.)



79

Israel Baer

Born 28 June 1824 in Landeck (West Prussia)
(now Lędyczek, Poland)

Died 14 November 1905 in Berlin

Field B 1, family plot 118

The tomb for Ernestine Baer née Bab (1825-1904) and Israel Baer is of the throne tomb type. Often, as in this case, the symbolist art of Art Nouveau turned abstract concepts, like those of the "divine throne", into visible forms. The throne type was obviously very popular in sepulchral art about 1905, as the Jewish cemetery at Weissensee has tombs from that time that are largely identical (those of Robert Baszynski, Field R 2; Abraham Harrison, Field F 2; Alexander Aronheim, Field V 2) or at least very similar (those of Adolph Bernhard, Field O 2 and Vally Cohn, Field F 1). Other striking features besides the stylized form are the magnificent, polished, red-speckled granite and the elegantly contrasting decorations of greenish, patinated sheet copper. The two crowns of fine rose leaf and blossom are reminiscent of Torah crowns, although they may also symbolize the "crown of life". The rose, which also appears in the relief fields on the top of the wall and in the frame of the blind niche with its two inscription plaques, may be seen here as a cipher for the paradise to come on the one hand and as an indication of the fleeting nature of earthly existence on the other. The frame of the inscription niche, whose shape is reminiscent of a trestle made up of rose-trees, ribbons and a laurel wreath, can also be construed as a lasting symbol of a mourning canopy and platform. The creator of the tomb is unknown.

(j.k.)



80

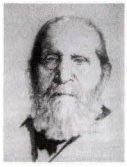
Ferdinand Strassmann

Gynaecologist, Health Councillor, Honorary Citizen of Berlin

Born 24 February 1838 in Rawitsch (West Prussia) (now Rawicz, Poland)

Died 19 April 1931 in Berlin

Wall opposite Field A 1, Grave of Honour of the State of Berlin



At the beginning of the 19th century the Jewish draper Heiman from the little West Prussian town of Rawitsch changed his name to Strassmann. Four of his sons wrote medical history, and the Strassmann family produced a total of eight medical practitioners. Ferdinand was the youngest of them. He went to the grammar school in Lissa and studied medicine in Berlin. He was able to demonstrate his medical skills in 1863 during the cholera epidemic and in 1870/71 as head of a field hospital in the Franco-Prussian War. Later he started his own practice. Together with his brother Heinrich he published the specialist journal *Graevelsche Notizen für praktische Ärzte* (Graevel's Notes for Practising Physicians). In 1884 he went into local politics in the Berlin City Council, performing great services in the setting up of hospitals, psychiatric hospitals and convalescent homes as well as in the modernization of the city's disinfection and sanitary facilities. In 1889 he became unsalaried city councillor for medicine. He gave up his private practice. For 30 years, as City Medical Councillor, Ferdinand Strassmann was in charge of Berlin's health care system. In 1915 by virtue of his great social commitment the Berlin municipal authorities gave him the freedom of the city. Upon being made an honorary citizen he said that "what had kept him going had been his friendships with rich and poor, young and old, liberals and conservatives, and not least with Christians and Jews". In the Berlin district of Friedrichshain a Strassmann-Strasse was named after this medical family.

(r.b.)



81

Sepulchre for desecrated Torah scrolls

Field A 1

The Torah scrolls contain the five books of Moses, the second of which contains the Ten Commandments. Many Torah scrolls came close to being destroyed in the state-organized pogrom of what became known as *Reichskristallnacht*. It was the night from 9 to 10 November 1938, in which 91 Jews were murdered and 26,000 abducted, synagogues were demolished, and shops and buildings were set on fire. Yet Torah scrolls were still rescued from the burning synagogues and collected and preserved in the hospital of the Adass Jisroel Community at 85 Elsässerstrasse (now Torstrasse). In 1943 the 583 Torah scrolls that had been saved were to be put on show with other religious cult objects in an anti-Jewish exhibition. In order to keep them out of the hands of the Nazis a Christian removal man came in the night and at great personal risk took the Torah scrolls to the cemetery grounds. These Torah scrolls were hidden in the gallery of the New Hall of Mourning. When during a night raid incendiaries fell on an adjacent factory building, 90 Torah scrolls were so badly damaged that they could no longer fulfil their sacred function, so these scrolls were later committed to the earth at this spot. After the war was over, the remaining Torah scrolls were sent to the re-opened synagogues in Berlin and other cities in Germany and other countries. In March 1950 Torah scrolls were sent to Bombay and in May to Dublin, and the hope arose of a new start. In 1980 an inscription plaque for the desecrated Torah scrolls was inaugurated.

(r.b.)

Grave Art Symbolism

Fiona Laudamus

The symbols used on the gravestones belong to the Jewish tradition, although Neo-Classicism is also represented by symbols taken from Graeco-Roman antiquity. Symbols of Christian origin can also be identified as evidence of increasing assimilation.

According to Jewish religious precepts, likenesses are not permissible in cemeteries. With the exception of a small number of portraits this ban on the representation of the human form has been adhered to. On the other hand we find other pictorial representations suggested by the names of the deceased, such as lions, bears, and stags.

Star of David

The Star of David – in Hebrew: Magen David (Shield of David) – consists of two superimposed triangles. Although this hexagram (six-pointed star) was found in the early stages of many cultures, by the 16th century it had become the best known symbol of Judaism.

Menorah

One of the oldest Jewish symbols is the seven-armed candelabrum, a symbol which stands for the biblical Temple and also for spiritual light and life.

Hands raised in blessing

The sign of two hands with the fingers spread in blessing is a symbol of ancestry and is found on the tombs of Kohanim (Cohen), the priests and descendants of the Archpriest Aaron. In ancient Israel they were in charge of the sacrificial ceremony; in the synagogue they raise their hands in order to bless the congregation.

Jug and basin

This sign symbolizes the name Levi or any of its variant spellings and commemorates descent from the Levites, whose task it was to hand the priests water with which they could cleanse themselves before bestowing their blessing.

Crown

The representation of a crown refers to the Ethics of the Fathers, chap. 4,17, which states: "Rabbi Simon said: There are three crowns: the crown of the Torah, the crown of the priesthood, and the crown of the kingdom, but the crown of the good name is the greatest of all." Thus the crown on a gravestone may stand for a member of the priestly caste (crown of the priestly office), or for great scholarship (crown of the Torah) or as the sign of a good name.

Oil lamp

The oil lamp based on antique models stands for the eternal life of the soul and refers to the words of Solomon: "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord" (Proverbs 20, 27).

Tablets of the law

The representation of the tablets, linked together and rounded at the top, is a reference to the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament and represents above all adherence to the law.

Book

A book, usually shown as open, stands both for scholarship and religious learning and, when in the form of a prayer book, for especial piety.

Hourglass

The hourglass, sometimes shown as winged, is a general symbol of the passing of time and hence of the transience of life.

Serpent

A serpent biting its own tail is a symbol of eternity. However, the serpent is also the ancient symbol of Aesculapius, the god of healing, and hence the badge of the medical profession. In combination with the chalice it indicates the pharmacologist's vocation.

Butterfly

From ancient times the butterfly has been a symbol of the immortality of the soul as well as of the fleeting nature of life. The metamorphosis of the caterpillar into a butterfly is also associated with the resurrection of the soul.

Poppy capsules

In classical antiquity poppy flowers and poppy capsules were symbols of the mythological brothers Hypnos (Sleep) and Thanatos (Death), sons of the Nox (Night). Poppy flowers and poppy capsules are thus signs of eternal rest.

Rose

Since ancient times roses have been a symbol of love. Because of its thorns the rose is also associated with pain, and its withering with transience and death. Some gravestones bear a picture of a broken rose as a sign of someone cut down in the flower of their youth.

Palm frond

The depiction of palm fronds, usually crossed, stands for eternal life and resurrection.

Laurel branches

In classical antiquity the laurel, dedicated to Apollo, stood for joy, but also for cleansing and renunciation. Like all evergreens, it is also a symbol of immortality.

Tree

The tree of the Bible is considered to be the oak, as God appeared to the ancient patriarchs beside an oak tree.

Sun

The sun symbolizes the omnipresence of God and also stands for justice. The depiction of a rising sun refers to resurrection.

Torch

A lowered torch symbolizing the extinguished spark of life is a borrowing from classical antiquity. The same meaning is ascribed to the depiction of guttering candles.

Broken column

A tomb in the form of a broken column symbolizes a prematurely terminated life.

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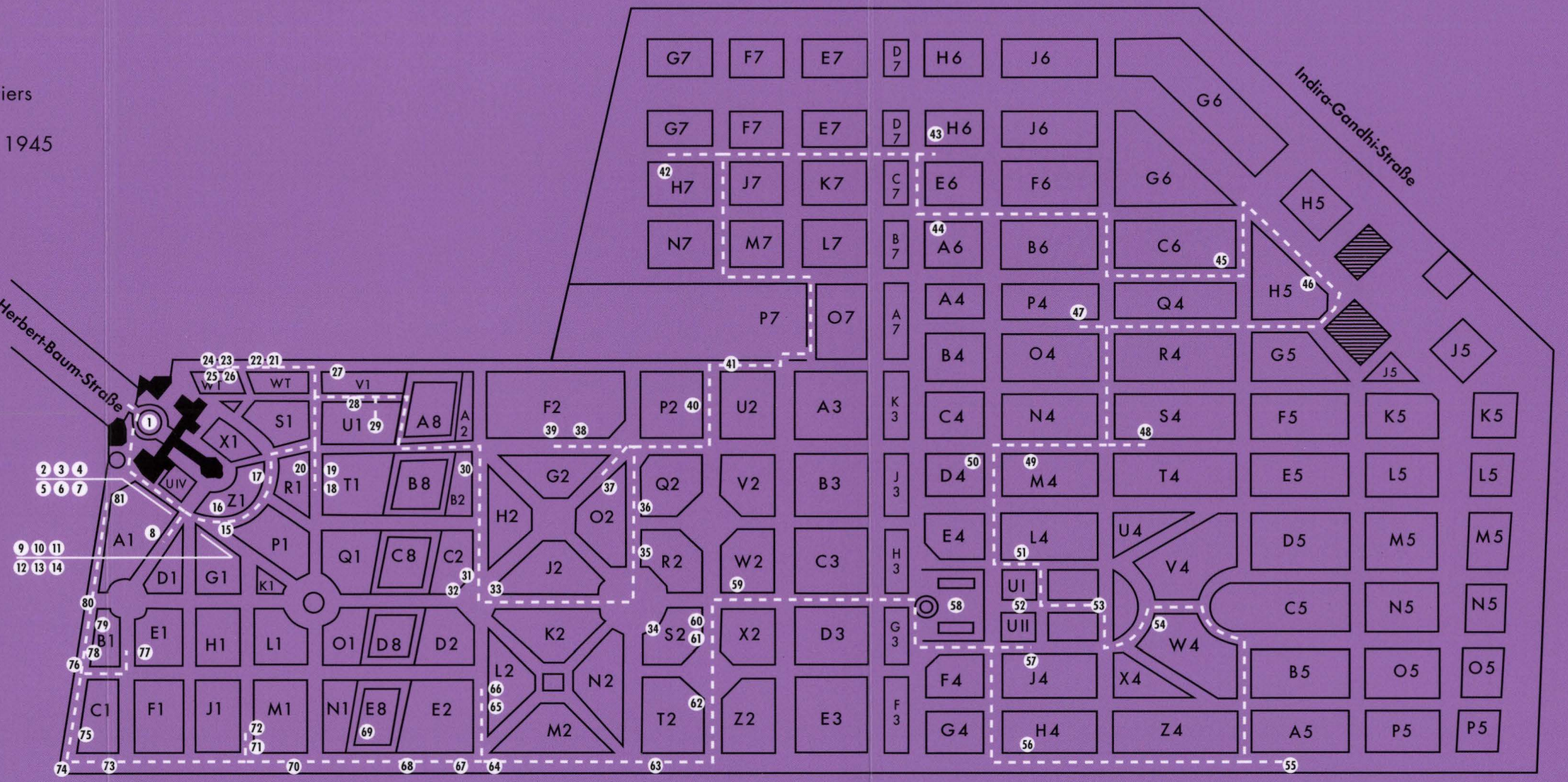
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