

MISSION

Heritage and History AG is a history research and editorial production company based in Zurich and specialized in the register of personal and community events of the different German speaking Jewish populations in Europe, which immigrated to Brazil during the 20th century, as a result of the persecution of the national socialist regime. The majority of these populations were already domiciled for centuries in regions in today's countries in Central and East Europe, such as Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia. A fundamental task of this research is to bring out the cultural, scientific and economic contribution of these immigrants to the Brazilian society which offered them a new home.

Heritage and History wants to constitute a collection of documents, photography and Judaica objects from the assets of the families which immigrated to Brazil. In this collection, there will also be testimonials and video recordings of the immigrants and their descendants. This work of archiving and researching is also performed by a local team of specialists with researchers, archivists, translators and photographers, with the support of Heritage and History. Along this process, the collection will generate a centre for documentation, information and reference, based in Rio de Janeiro.

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Rabbi Dr. Lemle's life and work

The path of life of Rabbi Dr. Lemle is an example of the persecution, compulsory immigration and reconstruction of a new existence in an alien environment. The first nine years of his career, from his installation as a rabbi in Mannheim in 1933 until the foundation of ARI in Rio de Janeiro, bring out his brilliancy and pioneer spirit.

Rabbi Dr. Lemle started his career as a Rabbi in Mannheim, Germany, on April 1st, 1933 – the day of the boycott of Jewish establishments, businesses, doctors and lawyers' practices. His uncle, father of his future wife Margot, was one of the first victims of Nazi persecution during a pogrom in Creglingen at the end of March of 1933.

Hired by the Liberal Congregation in Frankfurt am Main in 1934, Lemle was the first ever Rabbi for the Youth in Germany and worked there until his deportation to the KZ Buchenwald as a consequence of the pogrom in the night from 9th to 10th of November, known as Reichspogromnacht, mostly referred as Kristallnacht. He could be saved from Buchenwald through the intervention of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (London) and could escape to England, where he later again was interned as „enemy alien“ in a camp after the outburst of the II World War.

Once more through the help of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, he could emigrate to Rio de Janeiro at the end of 1940, where he founded the Congregation „Associação Religiosa Israelita“ (ARI) in January of 1942, with a group of German Jewish immigrants who have established themselves there since the 1930's. Lemle was the rabbi who against all odds and defying the guide lines of dictator Getúlio Vargas buried the famous couple Lotte and Stefan Zweig according to the Jewish Law.

Lemle was among the pioneers in introducing, developing and sustaining Liberal Judaism in Brazil, giving it strength to exist beyond his death in September of 1978. Important marks in his life and work were his impact on various generation of Jewish people in Rio, his relationship to the Christian world in Brazil, his very Zionist position and his ability to integrate himself and the ones around him to the new country.



On February 24th, 1942, Rabbi Dr. Lemle buried the couple Lotte and Stefan Zweig in the City Cemetery of Petropolis according to the Jewish law



Folder in three languages (German, Portuguese, Yiddish) inviting the community in Rio to the first religious service lead by Rabbi Dr. Lemle in the Great Jewish Temple, at Tenente Possolo Street



In July of 1948, Rabbi Dr. Lemle was a member of the Brazilian delegation to the World Jewish Congress in Switzerland