

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ

ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΤΗΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΗΣ ΚΛΗΡΟΝΟΜΙΑΣ
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*Τα αρχειακά τεκμήρια μιλούν...
για τις πρώτες γυναίκες στην αρχαιολογία
(πρώτο μισό 20ού αιώνα)*



ΑΘΗΝΑ 2026

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ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΟΠΤΕΙΑ

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ΕΠΙΓΡΑΦΙΚΟ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ

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ΠΡΟΛΟΓΟΣ

Στο πρώτο μισό του 20ού αιώνα οι λιγοστές γυναίκες αρχαιολόγοι εργάζονταν στην «αφάνεια». Η κυριαρχία των ανδρικών επαγγελματικών και επιστημονικών προτύπων δημιουργούσε σημαντικούς φραγμούς στην ένταξη γυναικών επιστημόνων στον χώρο. Ταυτόχρονα, όπως προκύπτει από τα λιγοστά δημοσιευμένα στοιχεία, εξαιρετικά περιορισμένη υπήρξε και η μελέτη της ζωής και του έργου των Ελληνίδων και ξένων αρχαιολόγων που έδρασαν στην ελληνική επικράτεια.

Το τοπίο αλλάζει τις τελευταίες δεκαετίες, καθώς ανασύρονται από τη λήθη αρχειακά τεκμήρια σχετικά με τη δράση των πρώτων γυναικών αρχαιολόγων. Έναν ικανοποιητικό αριθμό αυτών των τεκμηρίων διαθέτει και το Ιστορικό Αρχείο Αρχαιοτήτων και Αναστηλώσεων της Διεύθυνσης Διαχείρισης Εθνικού Αρχείου Μνημείων (ΔΔΕΑΜ). Το υλικό αυτό σε συνδυασμό με τα αρχεία ξένων αρχαιολογικών σχολών, πανεπιστημίων, μουσείων, επιστημονικών ιδρυμάτων αλλά και προσωπικών αρχείων ήρθε να φωτίσει ενδιαφέρουσες πτυχές της προσωπικότητας γυναικών που έδρασαν ανασκαφικά ή συνέβαλαν με την παρουσία τους στο αρχαιολογικό έργο, αφήνοντας ανεξίτηλο το αποτύπωμά τους.

Με έναυσμα το διαθέσιμο αρχειακό υλικό διοργανώθηκε υβριδικά τον Νοέμβριο του 2021, εν μέσω πανδημίας, επιστημονική συνάντηση με τον εύγλωττο τίτλο *Τα αρχειακά τεκμήρια μιλούν... για τις πρώτες γυναίκες στην αρχαιολογία (πρώτο μισό του 20ού αιώνα)*. Η συνάντηση δεν απέβλεπε στο να καλυφθεί πλήρως και σε όλες τις διαστάσεις του το θέμα στο οποίο ήταν αφιερωμένη, αλλά να τεθούν οι βάσεις για έναν γόνιμο διάλογο με στόχο την αξιοποίηση των αρχειακών συλλογών και τη διάθεσή τους στην επιστημονική κοινότητα και το ευρύ κοινό. Συγχρόνως απέβλεπε στην καλύτερη γνωριμία της επιστημονικής κοινότητας με τις υπάρχουσες αρχειακές συλλογές, όπως επίσης και στη διερεύνηση ενδεχόμενων συνεργειών για τον εντοπισμό κοινών αρχειακών συνόλων, τη διασύνδεση των τεκμηρίων και την αξιοποίησή τους μέσω ψηφιακών τεχνολογιών.

Το αρχειακό υλικό που αξιοποίησαν οι ανακοινώσεις μας παρείχε την ευκαιρία να παρακολουθήσουμε τους παράλληλους και ενίοτε συμπορευόμενους βίους των πρώτων Ελληνίδων και λιγοστών Ευρωπαίων αρχαιολόγων. Ο αρχικός σχεδιασμός προέβλεπε τη συμμετοχή περισσότερων ομιλητριών και, κατά συνέπεια, τη γνωριμία με περισσότερες σημαντικές προσωπικότητες Ευρωπαίων και Αμερικανίδων αρχαιολόγων. Ωστόσο, οι έκτακτες υγειονομικές συνθήκες ανέτρεψαν εν μέρει τα σχέδιά μας.

Η επιστημονική συνάντηση πραγματοποιήθηκε με την υποστήριξη της τότε προϊσταμένης της ΔΔΕΑΜ, επίτιμης διευθύντριας Αρχαιοτήτων Ευγενίας Γερούση, ενώ την επιμέλεια της επιστημονικής συνάντησης είχαν η αρχαιολόγος Σοφία Φραγκουλοπούλου και η υπογράφοσα. Στην καλλιτεχνική επιμέλεια του συνεδριακού υλικού συνέβαλε καθοριστικά και ο συντηρητής αρχαιοτήτων και έργων τέχνης Δημοσθένης Τσορμπατζόγλου. Την επίλυση των τεχνικών θεμάτων έφερε σε πέρας ο πληροφορικός Νίκος Συρρός σε συνεργασία με την εταιρεία που ανέλαβε την τεχνική υποστήριξη της διαδικτυακής κάλυψης της ημερίδας.

Τη διεκπεραίωση των οικονομικών θεμάτων επωμίστηκε το Τμήμα Υποστήριξης Λειτουργίας της ΔΔΕΑΜ, με προϊστάμενο τον Νίκο Λένο, και κυρίως οι διοικητικοί υπάλληλοι Χρύσα Πλευρά και Μαρία Τσούγκα.

Η εκδήλωση φιλοξενήθηκε στο Επιγραφικό Μουσείο, όπου ο διευθυντής του Νάσος Θέμος, οι προϊστάμενες των τμημάτων Γιάννα Βενιέρη και Έλενα Ζαβού και οι αρχαιολόγοι Σταματούλα Μακρουπόδη και Μαίρη Φουντούλη κατέβαλαν κάθε δυνατή προσπάθεια για την ομαλή διεξαγωγή της συνάντησης κάτω από τις δύσκολες υγειονομικές συνθήκες.

Ο ανά χείρας συλλογικός τόμος περιέχει δέκα πρωτότυπες και αρχειακά τεκμηριωμένες μελέτες με την υπογραφή – ίσως όχι τυχαία – μόνο γυναικών αρχαιολόγων και ιστορικών, οι οποίες έφεραν σε πέρας με γνώση και υπευθυνότητα το δύσκολο εγχείρημα της σκιαγράφησης των προσωπικοτήτων πρωτοπόρων αρχαιολόγων.

Η αναδίφηση σε αρχειακά τεκμήρια ανέδειξε ενδιαφέρουσες και άγνωστες πτυχές του βίου και της δράσης των πρώτων αρχαιολόγων. Στις Ελληνίδες συγκαταλέγονται η εμβληματική μορφή της Σέμνης Παπασπυρίδη-Καρούζου, η Ειρήνη Βαρούχα-Χριστοδουλοπούλου, η Ελένη Φίλτσου-Παππαδάκη, η Ιωάννα Κωνσταντίνου και η Βενετία Κώττα. Με τα επαρκή επιστημονικά εφόδια που διέθεταν, χάρη και στην αστική τους καταγωγή, διακρίθηκαν σε μια ανδροκρατούμενη αρχαιολογική κοινότητα, καταλαμβάνοντας σημαντικές θέσεις σε μουσεία και Εφορείες Αρχαιοτήτων.

Σε διαφορετικά κοινωνικά περιβάλλοντα ανατράφηκαν οι μεγαλοαστικής καταγωγής Βρετανίδες Winifred Lamb και Sylvia Benton, καθώς και οι Γερμανίδες Elisabeth Jastrow, Berta Segall, Margaret Bieber και άλλες ομότεχνές τους. Προερχόμενες από εύπορες οικογένειες και με σπουδές σε γνωστά πανεπιστήμια, κινούμενες όμως στο δύσβατο και επισφαλές περιβάλλον της εποχής του Μεσοπολέμου, μπόρεσαν χάρη και στην υποστήριξη των ξένων αρχαιολογικών σχολών και ινστιτούτων να συνεχίσουν τις σπουδές τους στην Ελλάδα και να αφοσιωθούν με πάθος στη μελέτη και έρευνα του αρχαίου ελληνικού πολιτισμού. Ιδιαίτερο ενδιαφέρον παρουσιάζει και η συμβολή Γερμανίδων γυναικών, κυρίως θυγατέρων και συζύγων γνωστών αρχαιολόγων, οι οποίες δρώντας στο πλευρό τους συνέδραμαν ουσιαστικά στο ανασκαφικό τους έργο. Μοναδική είναι η περίπτωση της εύπορης Αμερικανίδας Εύας Palmer, κατόπιν συζύγου του Άγγελου Σικελιανού, η οποία κινούμενη στις παρυφές της αρχαιολογίας, διαδραμάτισε καίριο ρόλο στη χρηματοδότηση και οργάνωση των Δελφικών εορτών.

Ο παρών τόμος είναι καρπός συνεργασίας και κοινής βούλησης για τη δημοσιοποίηση των ανακοινώσεων της ημερίδας στην αρχαιολογική κοινότητα και στο ευρύτερο ενδιαφερόμενο κοινό.

Για την έκδοση των πρακτικών της ημερίδας, θερμές ευχαριστίες οφείλονται στην προϊστάμενη της ΔΔΕΑΜ Μαρία-Ξένη Γαρέζου που ενθάρρυνε την πρωτοβουλία αυτή, στην πρόεδρο του ΟΔΑΠ Νικολέττα Διβάρη-Βαλάκου, επίτιμη διευθύντρια Αρχαιοτήτων, και στο Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο που ενέκριναν την ένταξη του τόμου στο εκδοτικό πρόγραμμα, καθώς και στην πολύπειρη διευθύντρια Εκδόσεων και Ψηφιακών Εφαρμογών Ελένη Κώττου, σταθερή αρωγό σε κάθε εκδοτικό εγχείρημα της αρχαιολογικής κοινότητας. Ξεχωριστές είναι οι ευχαριστίες προς την επιμελήτρια Χριστίνα Μακαρατζή για την εξαιρετική γλωσσική και τυπογραφική επιμέλεια του τόμου.

Τέλος, ευχαριστούμε θερμότατα τις συγγραφείς του τόμου που μας εμπιστεύτηκαν τα κείμενά τους και συνεργάστηκαν άφογα σε όλη την εκδοτική διαδικασία.

Αθηνά Χατζηδημητρίου
Ιστορικό Αρχείο Αρχαιοτήτων και Αναστηλώσεων
Διεύθυνση Διαχείρισης Εθνικού Αρχείου Μνημείων

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Elisabeth Jastrow and Berta Segall: two German-Jewish archaeologists in Athens*

Alexandra Kankeleit

Introduction

This article introduces two German-Jewish archaeologists, Elisabeth Jastrow (1890-1981) and Berta Segall (1902-1976), who were active in Greece before the World War II.

Both archaeologists came from wealthy families that had enabled them to study at the most prestigious universities and under the most renowned professors in Germany and Austria.

Until Hitler's seizure of power in 1933, all doors and paths seemed open to them professionally and privately. However, the National Socialist racial policies quickly forced them into a situation in which they were on the run for many years and had to fight for their own survival.

During this period, they received support from various sources: influential women in archaeology (including Gisela Richter, Margarete Bieber, and Hetty Goldman), former colleagues in Germany, as well as from Greek archaeologists and companions, a topic that will be discussed in the following text.

There seems to have been hardly any points of contact between the two women, possibly due to their age difference¹. It could also be that their scientific and personal priorities were quite different, but there is little evidence of this.

Politically, there were similarities, as both rejected any form of totalitarianism and strove for the ideal of a liberal and socially just form of society. The surviving letters make it clear that they critically and reflectively dealt with the worldwide political upheavals during the first half of the 20th century. There are indications that Berta Segall was even more pessimistic and despairing in this respect than Elisabeth Jastrow².

* My sincere thanks go to the colleagues who organised the congress and were responsible for the preparation of this volume: Athina Chatzidimitriou, Sofia Fragoulopoulou, Archontoula Papoulakou (Greek Ministry of Culture). I would also like to thank the following persons and institutions for their manifold support in my research on Elisabeth Jastrow and Berta Segall: Esau Dozio (Antikensammlung Basel and Sammlung Ludwig), Stephan Zakow (Entschädigungsbehörde des Landes Berlin), Katharina Brandt, and Dimitris Grigoropoulos (DAI Athen), Martina Düntzer (DAI Berlin), Virginia Mokslaveskas (Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles), Erica Mosner (Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey), Philipp-Lukas Bohr (Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Bonn), Maïke Hennig (Universitätsarchiv Bonn), Christine Harkensee-Roth (Forschungsstelle Hannah Arendt-Zentrum, Universität Oldenburg), Konstantinos Kalogeropoulos (Archaeological Society of Athens), Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan (American School of Classical Studies at Athens), Paul-Björn Neuwald (Landesarchiv Berlin), Robert Wein (Stadtmuseum Berlin), Martin Maischberger (Antikensammlung der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin), Stefan Altekamp (Winckelmann-Institut der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Folker Reichert (Heidelberg), Gregor Gebauer (Leipzig), Adolf Borbein (Berlin), and John Filias (Athens). I assume sole responsibility for the translations into English – also from German, French and Greek quotations and original sources.

1. About a possible contact, see Obermayer 2014, 165-166 n. 130. Getty Research Institute, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers 4.51, Margarete Gütschow to Elisabeth Jastrow in a letter dated 18 October 1938.

2. Hints for this: Institute for Advanced Study, Director's Office Member Records, Box 125: Segall, Berta (entire folder contents), Homer A. Thompson to Robert Oppenheimer on 28 November 1955: '[...] her attitude toward

Both women shared an enthusiasm for ancient Greek art and culture. Modern Greece also seems to have cast a spell on them. Previously unknown documents from archives scattered all over the world provide information about their relationship to the country and its people. They also provide clues to the friendships and collaborations they established in Athens.

It is difficult to introduce two such multi-layered and complex personalities as Elisabeth Jastrow and Berta Segall in such a short contribution. For this reason, the focus will fall on the points that have a direct connection to Greece. Important stations of the two women in Europe and the United States can only be briefly touched upon here and should be reserved for later investigations³. Nevertheless, the documents presented here show what treasures are still to be discovered in many archives.

Of course, the question arises why Elisabeth Jastrow and Berta Segall are interesting for us from today's perspective. Neither belonged to the leading archaeological circles and their scientific oeuvre did not lead to their being known worldwide today⁴.

The Nazi regime had denied them a career in Germany and in exile they had to struggle under the most difficult conditions to obtain temporary scholarships or research contracts. The desire to publish in their German mother tongue also presented them with greater challenges.

However, their fates show that they managed to maintain their dignity despite all defeats and restrictions. Both were wholehearted archaeologists for whom another profession was obviously out of the question at any time. They had no life partners or children, but remained very closely connected to their siblings and the rest of their family until the end of their lives⁵.

'Writing' was existential for both women. Formulating texts offered them familiarity and security⁶. It gave the two stateless people a form of 'home', which they urgently needed in exile. In Elisabeth Jastrow's case, this becomes clear in her abundant correspondence. In the Getty Research Institute alone, her estate is kept with over 3,000 documents (letters and notes)⁷.

Berta Segall was also a dedicated letter writer, but a number of publications also testify to her drive to engage productively with her field⁸. She is still considered a luminary among specialists in ancient and Byzantine goldsmiths' work and in Hellenistic minor art.

What drew my attention to these two archaeologists?

It was rather by chance that two documents in the archives of the DAI in Athens and Berlin drew my attention to these women.

life and the community is now a good deal more healthy than it had been some years ago'. See n. 16 and 96, fig. 10 below (letter from Ernst Langlotz).

3. Some works on the two women are currently in preparation: Adolf Borbein on Elisabeth Jastrow and Renate Rosenthal-Heginbottom on Berta Segall. Certainly more documents and important stages of life will be presented there.
4. Karl Schefold first referred to the research and publications of the two women in his book *Orient. Hellas und Rom in der archäologischen Forschung seit 1939*, see Schefold 1949, 38, 101, 128-129, 152, 154, 157, 218. Kankeleit 2020, 73.
5. About Elisabeth Jastrow's sister Charlotte Beate Hahn née Jastrow and her niece Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, see LABO Berlin, BEG-Akte Reg.-Nr. 63 918, M58 and M59. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornelia_Oberlander (last access: February 2026). About Berta Segall's four siblings, her brothers Max and Gregor Segall and her sister Lotte Jacoby, see Antikensammlung Basel und Sammlung Ludwig, Archiv, Nachlass (estate) Berta Segall. Schmidt 1977, 121. Kankeleit 2019b, 42-43 n. 61. Kankeleit 2019c, 91. <https://arendtindex.com/>, search keyword 'Segall'. Arendt 2017, 59 n. 11, 217, 677 (Index), see about a possible child: n. 83.
6. In general about this phenomenon in people who had to live in exile, see Arendt 1994. Heimann 2020, 164.
7. Website of the Getty Research Institute: <https://www.getty.edu/research/collections/collection/113YB6> (last access: February 2026).
8. On the estate of Berta Segall in the Antikenmuseum Basel, see Kankeleit 2019b. Kankeleit 2019c.

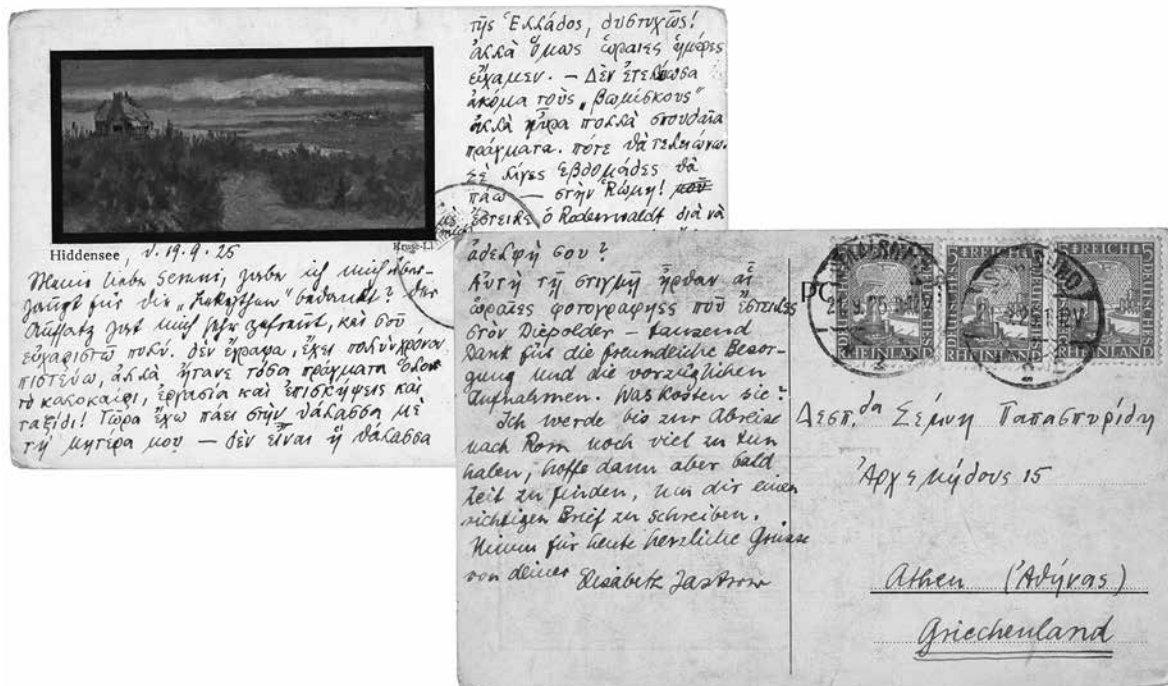


Fig. 1. Postcard from Elisabeth Jastrow to Semni Karouzou dated 19 September 1925 (Karouzou's estate at the DAI Athens, D-DAI-ATH-Archiv-NL-Karouzou-K-1-003-021A-B).

In the case of Elisabeth Jastrow, it is a postcard from the Karouzou archive in the DAI Athens (fig. 1). It was sent from the German island of Hiddensee to Semni Papaspyridi-Karouzou⁹ in Athens in September 1925. The friendly, almost affectionate tone of the text testifies to a great bond between the two women. I also found it fascinating that Elisabeth Jastrow wrote some passages in Greek¹⁰. Apparently, she had learned to write and speak the Modern Greek during her several years of residence in Greece.

9. About Christos and Semni Papaspyridi-Karouzou, see Πετράκος 1995. Πετράκος 2011. Koutsoukou 2016. Πετράκος 2021, vol. I 364 (Index), vol. II 533 (Index), vol. IV 424 (Index). S. Fragouloupoulou, Semni Karouzou at the National Archaeological Museum: the rhetoric of aesthetics, the demand for scientificity, and the aestheticisation of the 'Middle Ages' of ancient Greek art, 71-83 in this volume.

10. DAI Athens, D-DAI-ATH-Archiv-NL-Karouzou-K-1-003-021A-B, postcard text: 'Hiddensee, d. 19.9.25 – Meine liebe Semni, habe ich mich überhaupt für die "Lekythen" bedankt? Der Aufsatz hat mich sehr gefreut, DAI Athens, D-DAI-ATH-Archiv-NL-Karouzou-K-1-003-021A-B, postcard text: Hiddensee, d. 19.9.25 – Meine liebe Semni, habe ich mich überhaupt für die "Lekythen" bedankt? Der Aufsatz hat mich sehr gefreut, και σου εύχαριστώ πολύ. Δεν έγραφα, έχει πολὺν χρόνον πιστεύω, ἀλλὰ ἤτανε τόσα πράγματα ὅλο τὸ καλοκαίρι, ἐργασία και επισκέψεις και ταξίδια! Τώρα ἔχω πάει στὴν θάλασσα με τὴ μητέρα μου – δὲν εἶναι ἡ θάλασσα τῆς Ἑλλάδος, δυστυχῶς! ἀλλὰ ὅμως ὡραίες ἡμέρες εἴχαμεν. – Δεν ἔτελειωσα ἀκόμα τοὺς "βωμίσκους" ἀλλὰ ἤυρα πολλὰ σπουδαῖα πράγματα. πότε θὰ τελειώνω? Σὲ λίγες ἑβδομάδες θὰ πάω – στὴν Ῥώμη! μου ἔστειλε ὁ Rodenwaldt διὰ τὴν ἐργάζω, μαζί με δύο ἄλλους, τὸν κατάλογον τοῦ Mau-Mercklin. Χαίρομαι πολὺ, φυσικὰ, και ἐλπίζω ὅτι και σὺ θὰ ἔλθῃς στὴν Ῥώμη μία φορὰ! Ἐξέχασα τὰ ἑλληνικὰ, θὰ γελᾷς! – Και σὺ, τί κάνεις? και ἡ μητέρα σου και ἡ ἀδελφὴ σου? – Αὐτὴ τῆ στιγμῆ ἦρθαν αἱ ὡραίες φωτογραφίες ποὺ ἔστειλες στὸν Diepolder – tausend Dank für die freundliche Besorgung und die vorzüglichen Aufnahmen. Was kosten sie? – Ich werde bis zur Abreise nach Rom noch viel zu tun haben, hoffe dann aber bald Zeit zu finden, um dir einen richtigen Brief zu schreiben. – Nimm für heute herzliche Grüsse von deiner – Elisabeth Jastrow – Δεσφ. δα Σέμνη Παπασπυρίδη – Αρχ. Μύδους 15 – Athen (Ἀθήνας) – Griechenland'.

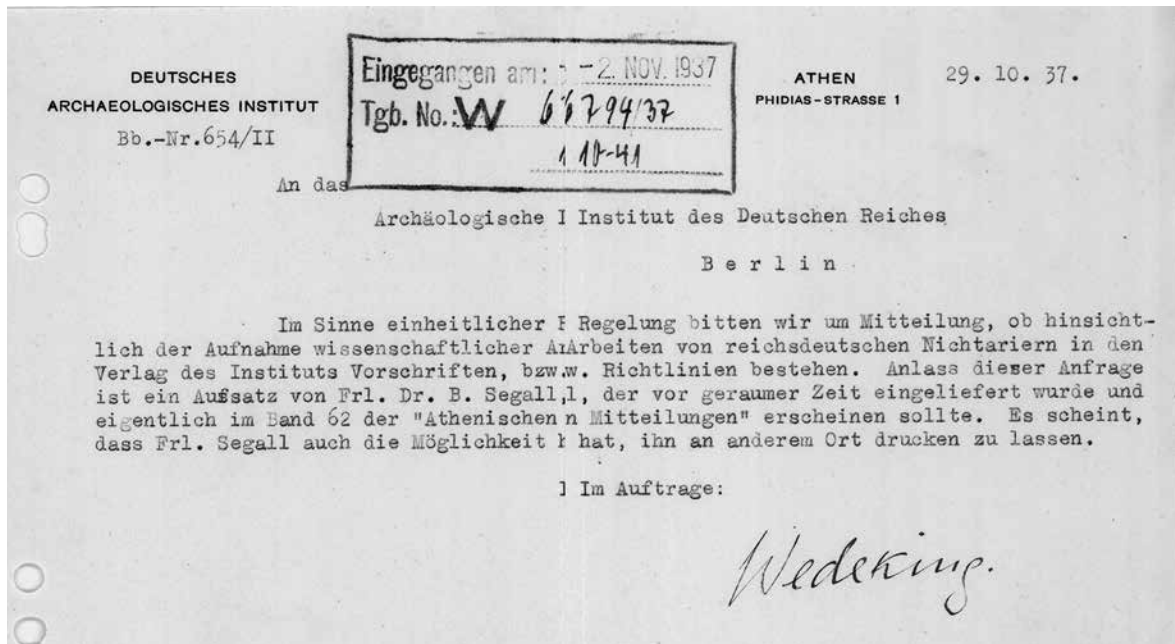


Fig. 2. Letter from Ernst Homann-Wedeking to Martin Schede dated 29 October 1937 (DAI, AdZ, Institutsakten [Institute's files], 10-40 Athen Allgemeines [Athens General] 01.04.1936-31.03.1945, 01.08.1948-31.12.1950).

In the case of Berta Segall, it is a very different kind of document: a factual enquiry from 1937 sent by Ernst Homann-Wedeking¹¹, then assistant at the DAI Athens, to the head office in Berlin (fig. 2). He enquired whether Berta Segall could publish an article in the German journal *Athenische Mitteilungen* despite the racial laws in Germany¹².

As in most other cases, this request was rejected by the head office in Berlin. Berta Segall had to translate the article into English and was able to publish it years later in an American journal. Only upon further research did it turn out that Ernst Homann-Wedeking was good friends with Segall and basically wanted to help her with this request.

Elisabeth Jastrow (1890-1981)

Elisabeth Jastrow came from a German-Jewish academic family¹³. She was born in 1890 in Berlin, where she graduated from high school in 1909. She then studied archaeology in Berlin and Heidelberg and completed her doctorate in 1916 with *summa cum laude* on the subject of 'Clay Altars [arulae] from the Western Greek Colonies'¹⁴. This topic was to accompany her

11. About Ernst Homann-Wedeking, see Kirsch 2019, Kankeleit 2019b, 40 nn. 40 and 54. About the wedding reception of Betty Dunkley and Ernst Wedeking at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, see <http://dlibrary.ascsa.edu.gr/ascsa-omeka/items/show/53028> and <http://dlibrary.ascsa.edu.gr/ascsa-omeka/items/show/51164> (last access: February 2026).

12. English translation of the request by Ernst Homann-Wedeking: 'In the interest of a uniform regulation, we would like to be informed whether there are any instructions or guidelines for the inclusion of scientific works by non-Aryans from the German Reich in the publishing house of the Institute. The reason for this request is an essay by Dr. B. Segall, which was submitted some time ago and was actually to appear in volume 62 of the *Athenische Mitteilungen*'. Kankeleit 2019b, 43. Kankeleit 2019c, 91-92.

13. Compilation of the previous bibliography on Elisabeth Jastrow, see Obermayer 2014, 133-191. Borbein 2022.

14. About the topic of the dissertation 'Ton-Altärchen aus den westgriechischen Kolonien', see Obermayer 2014, 134 n. 6. Meijden 1993, 153-155. https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt509nf2m9/entire_text/ (last access: February 2026).



Fig. 3. Elisabeth Jastrow in 1918. Front and back of a photo in the possession of Ernst Langlotz (Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek der Rheinischen Friedrich Wilhelm Universität Bonn, Nachlass Langlotz, 16:40).

throughout her life, and unfortunately she was not granted the opportunity to present her results formally in a printed book¹⁵.

After her doctorate, she held various professional positions followed in Leipzig and Gießen. The photo shown here belongs to the legacy of the archaeologist Ernst Langlotz¹⁶, who was a good friend of Elisabeth Jastrow (fig. 3). The 28-year-old is pictured here only a short time after the World War I.

In 1922, she came to Athens for two years and worked there on a temporary basis at the German School of Athens (Deutsche Schule Athen: DSA) and at the German Archaeological Institute at Athens (Deutsche Archäologische Institut, Abteilung Athen: DAI Athen)¹⁷. There are hardly any references to her activities at that time in either institution¹⁸.

15. See n. 48-50 below. On the publication procedure of dissertations at German universities in the interwar period, see Jung and Kaegbein 1979. Rasche 2018. In the war and crisis periods of the 20th century, the obligation to print dissertations had to be suspended several times in Germany.

16. About Ernst Langlotz (1895-1978), see A. Borbein, Ernst Langlotz 1895-1978, in Lullies and Schiering 1988, 268-269. Sailer 2015, 379 (Index). Stutzinger 2018, 223 (Index). Schneider 2019. <https://www.ulb.uni-bonn.de/de/sammlungen/nachlaesse/langlotz-ernst> (last access: February 2026).

17. On her work at the DSA in 1923, see Hansen 1971, 77. Hansen 2017, 75 and 77 no. 349 (referred to as 'Zastrow, Dr., Frl.' in the DSA teacher directory). Obermayer 2014, 135-136. Kankeleit 2019a, 292 n. 53. Universitätsarchiv Bonn, Personalakte Elisabeth Jastrow, PA 3641, work certificate issued by Adolf Spelmeyer, pastor and director of the German School in Athens, dated 21 June 1924.

18. On the relationship between the DSA and the DAI Athens, see Kankeleit 2019a.

It can be assumed that her close relationship with Semni Karouzou began during this period. Jastrow also cultivated a friendly relationship with Hans Möbius¹⁹ and Walther Wrede²⁰, who had already been working as teachers at the German School of Athens since 1921.

Her stay in Athens was followed by four years at the DAI in Rome. Until 1929, she was responsible for editing and reorganising catalogues there²¹.

In 1930 she returned to Germany to take up a post as assistant to Paul Jacobsthal²² in Marburg.

In 1933, she had her first chance at a permanent position in a field that really appealed to her. On Richard Delbrueck's²³ initiative, she was to become a scientific assistant (Wissenschaftliche Assistentin) at the Akademisches Kunstmuseum (Academic Art Museum in Bonn). However before she could even take up the position, she was dismissed because of the racial laws. According to these laws, it was forbidden to employ non-Aryan citizens at state institutions (Gesetz zur Wiederherstellung des Berufsbeamtentums / Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service)²⁴.

Two decades of insecurity and existential fear were to follow, which were further intensified by the fact that her father, whom she loved and admired very much, died suddenly in 1937²⁵. In retrospect, one can say that he was fortunate, as he no longer had to experience the brutal excesses of the Nazi regime.

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19. About Hans Möbius (1895-1977), see W. Schiering, Hans Möbius 1895-1977, in Lullies and Schiering 1988, 264-265. Maischberger 2002, 215-216. Various documents show that Möbius maintained a close relationship with the Karouzou couple until the late 1950s. Probably also for this reason the contact to Elisabeth Jastrow did not break off during the Nazi time, see The Getty Research Institute, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 9, Folder 1, Möbius, Hans, 1925-1960.
 20. About Walther Wrede (1893-1990), see Krumme 2012. About Wrede's friendship with Jewish colleagues and acquaintances in Greece, see Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg, Abt. Staatsarchiv Sigmaringen, 'Entnazifizierungsakten der Spruchkammer Tübingen' dated 5 December 1950, Wü 13 T 2 Nr. 2687/238 Bild 3. www.landearchiv-bw.de/plink/?f=6-477561-3 (last access February 2026). The relationship between Wrede and the Greek-Jewish architect Isaak Saporta (1910-1998) is dealt with by Thanasis Sotiriou in his dissertation. In the early 1920s, Elisabeth Jastrow had become godmother to Wrede's daughter Hilde. However, there is no indication that contact between Jastrow and the Wrede family continued during the Nazi era. Rather, one gets the impression that Wrede's daughter only resumed contact after the war in order to obtain an affidavit for her father, see GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 12, Folder 6, Hilde Scheel (née Wrede) to Elisabeth Jastrow on 20 June 1947.
 21. On Jastrow's stay in Rome, see Obermayer 2014, 136. On her deep friendship with Margarethe Gütschow (1871-1951), see Obermayer 2014, 148 n. 58-59, 165 n. 128, 178 nn. 181-182. Bucolo 2015, 128, 141-147, 174. About the contact with Hermine Speier, whom she also got to know better in Rome, see Sailer 2015, 379 (Index). GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 11, Folder 8 (correspondence with Hermine Speier from 1937 to 1961).
 22. About Paul Jacobsthal (1880-1957), see Jagust 2012. Dordanas 2020.
 23. About Richard Delbrueck (1875-1957), see M. Bergmann, Delbrueck, Richard, in Kuhlmann and Schneider 2012, col. 290-292.
 24. On the occupational ban on Jews in Nazi Germany, see <https://www.ushmm.org/learn/timeline-of-events/1933-1938/law-for-the-restoration-of-the-professional-civil-service> (last access: February 2026). On the loss of Jastrow's job in Bonn, see Obermayer 2014, 138 n. 17. Entschädigungsbehörde des Landes Berlin (Compensation Office of the State of Berlin): LABO Berlin, BEG-Akte Reg.-Nr. 64 073, E4, letter from Richard Delbrueck to Elisabeth Jastrow from 28 June 1933, expressing regret.
 25. On the fate of her mother Anna Jastrow née Seligmann (1858-1943) and the dissolution of her household in Berlin, see LABO Berlin, BEG-Akte Reg.-Nr. 63 918, D7, letter from her law firm Dr Hans Burchard in Berlin-Charlottenburg dated 21 June 1960. LABO Berlin, BEG-Akte Reg.-Nr. 63 918, D55-D65, affidavit from 17 January 1963 with a detailed description of the lost furniture (including books and other valuable items) from the 8-room apartment in Berlin-Charlottenburg 9, Nussbaumallee 24. Obermayer 2014, 185 n. 210.



Fig. 4. Photo of the Friedrich Wilhelm University in the 1930s. Front of a postcard (private property of A. Kankeleit).

Family background

There were several important scientists in Elisabeth Jastrow's family. This not only played a role in her professional career, but was also to help her establish contacts, especially in the United States, and find influential supporters there.

Her father, Ignaz Jastrow, was a historian and social politician. His areas of specialisation included, above all, topics such as the labour market and unemployment²⁶.

Her uncle (her father's cousin), Morris Jastrow, had already emigrated from Poland to the United States in the 19th century and made a name for himself there as an orientalist and librarian²⁷. His family was to become an important support for Elisabeth Jastrow when she had to emigrate to the United States in 1938²⁸.

Close ties to the Friedrich Wilhelm University

For father and daughter Jastrow, the Friedrich Wilhelm University in Berlin²⁹ played an important role (fig. 4). Elisabeth had studied there for several years and built up a good

26. About Ignaz Jastrow (1856-1937), see D. G. Maier, *Ignaz Jastrow. Sozialliberal in Wissenschaft und Politik*, Leipzig 2010. Bruch and Tenorth 2012, 179 and 184. http://hicks.wiwi.hu-berlin.de/history/start.php?type=person&name=Jastrow_Ignaz (last access: February 2026).

27. About Morris Jastrow (1861-1921), see T. L. Gertzen, *Morris Jastrow jr. Assur & Aggada*, Leipzig 2018.

28. Literature and sources, see Obermayer 2014, 157 n. 99, 169 n. 146.

29. On the history of the Friedrich Wilhelm Universität Berlin and its treatment of Jewish University members during the Nazi Period, see Bott 2009. Bruch and Tenorth 2012. <https://www.hu-berlin.de/de/ueberblick/geschichte/juedische-studierende/uni-im-ns> (last access: February 2026).

relationship with the teaching staff, including Gerhart Rodenwaldt³⁰ and Margarete Bieber³¹. She was also able to deepen her friendship with Greek archaeologists there, who increasingly came to Berlin as scholarship holders in the 1920s, especially in the summer term of 1929³².

Ignaz Jastrow had been a full professor of political science at the Friedrich-Wilhelms University since 1920 (officially until 1924, however his teaching did not end until 1935). He promoted the emancipation of women and, as a renowned pedagogue, left his mark on the next generation of academics in Germany over a period of five decades.

Professional networks

In her professional life, Jastrow had a number of male friends and supporters. These included the aforementioned Gerhart Rodenwaldt as well as Ludwig Curtius³³ and Guido von Kaschnitz-Weinberg³⁴.

A great familiarity and friendship connected her especially with her female colleagues: Margarete Gütschow³⁵ and Hermine Speier³⁶. Detailed monographs on both archaeologists already exist, in which Elisabeth Jastrow is also mentioned³⁷.

Support from influential women in archaeology

In her search for scholarships and temporary positions in the United States, Elisabeth Jastrow received support above all from the three leading women of classical archaeology: Margarete Bieber (1879-1978), Gisela Marie Augusta Richter (1882-1972) and Hetty Goldman (1881-1972)³⁸. Due to time constraints, it is not possible to go into this topic in more detail. However, further information can be found in the book by Hans Peter Obermayer on *Deutsche Altertumswissenschaftler im amerikanischen Exil*³⁹.

30. About Gerhart Rodenwaldt (1886-1945), see Sünderhauf 2008. Sünderhauf 2012.

31. About Margarete Bieber (1879-1978), see Felschow 2007. Recke 2007. Obermayer 2014, 35-107. http://www.brown.edu/Research/Breaking_Ground/bios/Bieber_Margarete.pdf (last access: July 2022). K. Brandt, Unheeded sources and hints: the academic and practical contribution of German women to Greek archaeology until the end of World War II in the context of the German Archaeological Institute at Athens, 141-170 in this volume.

32. Guestbook of the Archaeological Institute of the University of Berlin, Archive of the now named Winckelmann Institute: 'In the summer semester of 1929, the following people, among others, took part in Rodenwaldt's exercises in Berlin: the Karouzos couple, Max Wegner and Hans von Schoenebeck'.

33. About Ludwig Curtius (1874-1954), see Lullies and Schiering 1988, 186-187. Löwith 2007, 64. 88-89, 94. Manderscheid 2010. Obermayer 2014, 160 n. 110. Sailer 2015, 377-378 (Index). Diebner and Jansen 2016. <https://invenio.bundesarchiv.de/invenio/> (last access: February 2026).

34. About Guido von Kaschnitz-Weinberg (1890-1958), see R. Lullies, Guido Kaschnitz von Weinberg 1890-1958, in Lullies and Schiering 1988, 248-249. Becker and Raeck 2016. Raeck 2016.

35. About Margarete Gütschow (1871-1951), see Bucolo 2015.

36. About Hermine Speier (1898-1989), see Manderscheid 2014. Sailer 2015. Zanker 2015. https://sempub.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/propylaeum_vitae/wiscki/navigate/32136/view (last access: February 2026).

37. Sailer 2015, 62: 'The three women who are now employed here, Dr Jastrow, Dr Gütschow and Dr Frank, are all very nice comrades, eagerly devote themselves to their tasks and have all helped me occasionally'. Sailer 2015, 379 (Index). Bucolo 2015, 210 (Index).

38. About this pioneer women in classical archaeology during the first half of the 20th century, see Sherman 1981. Wehgartner 2004. Mellink and Quinn 2004. Fries and Gutmiedl-Schumann 2013. <https://vimeo.com/336071455> (last access February 2026). Margarete Bieber lost her professorship in Giessen in 1933, emigrated to the US in 1934 and received American citizenship in 1940. In addition to Bieber, Jastrow, and Segall, other female archaeologists sought refuge in the US, among them Anneliese Riess (1910-2005), see Manderscheid 2014, 208, 249 n. 243. Sailer 2015, 381 (Index). Zanker 2015, 133. <https://www.hu-berlin.de/de/ueberblick/geschichte/juedische-studierende/biographien/anneliese-riess> (last access: February 2026). DAI, AdZ, Nachlass Frank Brommer, K1, photo album with pictures of Anneliese Riess from 1935.

39. Obermayer 2014, 139 n. 21, 163 n. 121, 171, 173 n. 158. GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 1, Folder 42, correspondence with Margarete Bieber from 1938 to 1954.

Political attitude

An important aspect of this article is the close friendship between Elisabeth Jastrow and Semni Karouzou. The two women corresponded regularly since the 1920s. The sources also contain references to several meetings in Rome, Athens, and Berlin.

In 1936, Jastrow probably came to Athens for the last time before the war. There, the Karouzou couple organised meetings and excursions, which also included DAI staff members such as Roland Hampe, Kurt Gebauer, and the couple Kaschnitz von Weinberg⁴⁰.

An important commonality between Semni and Elisabeth ('Ebith') seems to have been their political views. Like her father, Jastrow was inclined toward left-wing or social liberalism.

In 1939, she worked briefly as a translator for the Italian socialist Gaetano Salvemini⁴¹ at Harvard, who was an avowed anti-communist, anti-fascist, and anti-monarchist⁴².

In a 1953 application, Theodor Heuss was named as guarantor⁴³. Heuss is considered one of the most important representatives of classical liberalism. He was elected the first President of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949 and, from then on, remained one of the foremost representatives of a civic and democratic Germany⁴⁴.

Some lines by Semni Karouzou, which she wrote to Elisabeth Jastrow a few years after the end of the World War II, fit into this context:

'One becomes pessimistic for our culture when one sees that England and America as *ἀντίπους* [antipodes] of Asiatic despotism could not create anything but the sad examples of Spain and Greece'⁴⁵.

'In November I spent a very pleasant week in Old Corinth with the Americans; their simple humanity, their civilization, their respect for women [...]'⁴⁶.

'There are many forces in the center, liberals and socialists; these are the best Greeks and they must not be overlooked, as has been the case until now'⁴⁷.

Archaeological research and publications

A central dilemma, which probably also complicated her search for work in the United States, was that Elisabeth Jastrow did not make progress with the publication of her dissertation⁴⁸.

40. Marie Luise Kaschnitz (1901-1974), wife of Guido Kaschnitz von Weinberg, reports on meetings with Elisabeth Jastrow that took place in Greece in the winter of 1936, see Kaschnitz 2000, 71-99. Roland Hampe's mother also mentions several meetings with 'Fräulein Jastrow' in Athens in her diary: UB Heidelberg, Tagebuch Charlotte Hampe, Heid. Hs. 4067 (Nachlass Karl Hampe), 14 September and 12 November 1936.

41. Obermayer 2014, 175 n. 171.

42. About Gaetano Salvemini (1872-1957), see C. Killinger, *Gaetano Salvemini. A Biography*, Westport, Conn. 2002. <https://networks.h-net.org/node/7651/reviews/8122/grand-killinger-gaetano-salvemini-biography> (last access: February 2026).

43. Universitätsarchiv Bonn, Personalakte Elisabeth Jastrow, PA 3641, Elisabeth Jastrow to Richard Delbrueck on 12 May 1953: 'I would like to mention that I have listed Dr Theodor Heuss and Professor Friedrich Matz as further witnesses'.

44. About Theodor Heuss (1884-1963), see <https://www.theodor-heuss-haus.de/theodor-heuss/kaiserreich/>. About his studies with Professor Ignaz Jastrow, see <https://www.theodor-heuss-haus.de/stuttgarter-ausgabe/briefe-1918-33/> and <https://www.theodor-heuss-haus.de/stuttgarter-ausgabe/briefe-1954-59/> (last access: February 2026).

45. GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 7, Folder 25, Semni Karouzou to Elisabeth Jastrow on 14 October 1946.

46. GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 7, Folder 25, Semni Karouzou to Elisabeth Jastrow on 29 December 1946.

47. GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 7, Folder 25, Semni Karouzou to Elisabeth Jastrow on 29 January 1949.

48. Obermayer 2014, 135 writes on this: 'Her versatility [was] not conducive to her career in the long run [...]: much more important than the catalogue [Jastrow 1921] at this point would have been the completion of the printed version of the dissertation, of which only a brief summary exists to this day in the *Archäologischer Anzeiger* (AA 1920, 102-104)'. Sailer 2015, 90 with n. 72.

It is true that, over the course of her life, she had been able to compile an extensive catalogue of more than 500 objects from Italy and Greece⁴⁹ and that until the 1960s she had exchanged views with colleagues from all over the world on detailed questions concerning the so-called ‘arulae’ (clay altars). But she never succeeded in presenting a finished book. Whether her restless life, her perfectionism, or other factors were decisive in this cannot be determined today.

In any case, the statement of the Getty Research Institute, which today houses a large part of her estate, is sobering: ‘In the end, Jastrow was never able to publish her comprehensive work, and the topic has subsequently been treated by Hellebora van der Meijden [...], yet Jastrow’s manuscripts and notes still contain large quantities of raw data and photographic documentation important for the study of arulae’⁵⁰.

Correspondingly meagre are the search results in the databases of the relevant libraries: three entries in the library search of the DAI Zenon⁵¹ and seven entries in the Bibliotheksverbund Berlin-Brandenburg⁵².

Professional activities in Greece

Relatively little is known about Elisabeth Jastrow’s exact activities in Greece in the period shortly after the World War I. The only source on this is her curriculum vitae in a restitution application dated May 1955⁵³.

According to this, she worked a total of 335 days for the DAI Athens from 1922 to 1923 and 204 days for the German School of Athens from 1923 to 1924 (fig. 5). In the case of the German Archaeological Institute in particular, it is no longer possible to determine what work she was entrusted with and whether she was paid for it⁵⁴.

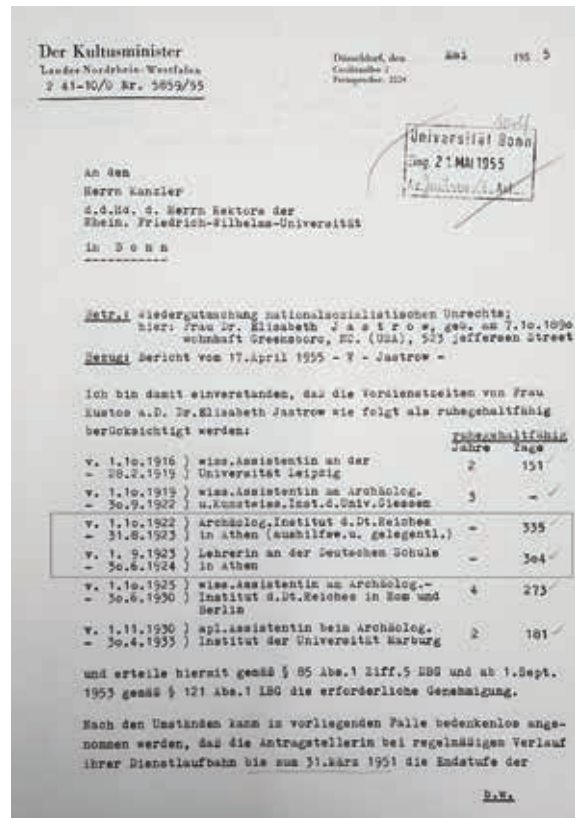


Fig. 5. File from Elisabeth Jastrow’s application for restitution, May 1955 (Bonn University Archives, Personal File Elisabeth Jastrow, PA 3641).

49. Obermayer 2014, 154 n. 85.

50. Online Archive of California (OAC), see https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt509nf2m9/entire_text/ (last access February 2026). Meijden examined in her dissertation (Meijden 1993) a total of ‘750 specimens and fragments’.

51. <https://zenon.dainst.org/> (last access: February 2026).

52. <https://www.kobv.de/> (last access: February 2026).

53. Universitätsarchiv Bonn, Personalakte Elisabeth Jastrow, PA 3641, The Minister of Education of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the Rector of the Rhenish Friedrich Wilhelm University in May 1955.

54. In the archives of the DAI Athens there is no information about Jastrow’s professional activity from October 1922 to August 1923 (courtesy of Katharina Brandt and Dimitris Grigoropoulos). It is possible that she worked for the Institute only on a voluntary basis.

Love for Greece

In any case, Elisabeth Jastrow's love for Greece must have been kindled in the early 1920s, as can be seen from various letters to Semni Karouzou – for example, in 1930: 'I love Greece much more than Italy, but I also often think of Rome, the beautiful old streets, palaces, fountains'⁵⁵.

In 1956 she wrote: 'It was the human understanding that united you both [Semni and Christos Karouzou] with me. An understanding not only of our shared experiences in all the important years of our lives, but also of my particular experiences in those difficult, grueling decades. The hospitality of your spirit and your beloved country'⁵⁶.

Support for Greece during the World War II and the Civil War

During the Greek Civil War, Elisabeth Jastrow sent aid packages to Greece and became involved in the American organisation, the Greek War Relief Association (GWRA)⁵⁷. American archaeologists such as Oscar Broneer and Margaret Thompson expressed their gratitude for her support⁵⁸. Despite being short of money herself, she regularly sent clothing and food to the Karouzou couple and to the National Archaeological Museum in Athens⁵⁹. The staff expressed their sincere thanks in a letter dated 10 October 1946 (fig. 6)⁶⁰.

A somewhat more elaborate project, with which Elisabeth Jastrow wanted to additionally increase Americans' willingness to donate to Greece, could unfortunately not be realised. She had planned an exhibition of Greek textiles and embroidery in Greensboro for December 1943, but was apparently unable to procure the relevant exhibits in time⁶¹.

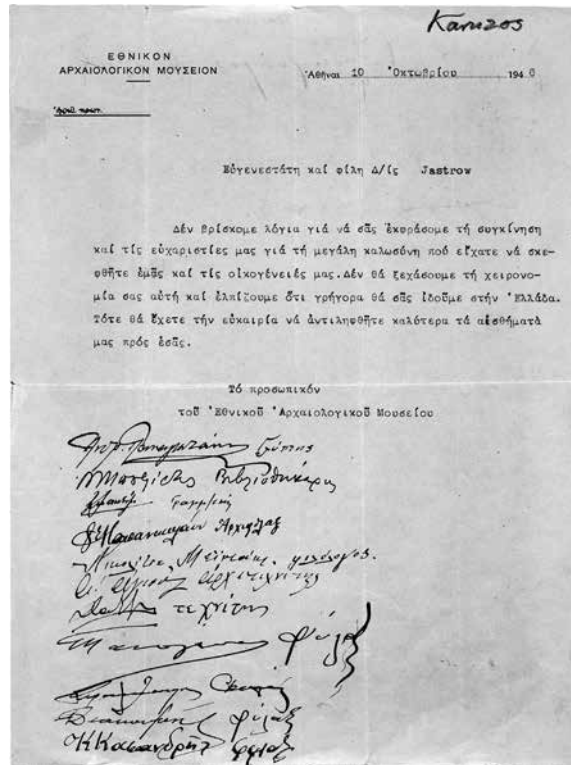


Fig. 6. Letter of thanks from the staff of the National Archaeological Museum in Athens to Elisabeth Jastrow, 10 October 1946 (GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 4, Folder 45).

55. DAI Athen, Archiv, Nachlass Karouzou, D-DAI-ATH-Archiv-Karousos-00086_0003, Elisabeth Jastrow to Semni Karouzou on 2 January 1930.
 56. GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 7, Folder 25, handwritten draft of a letter from Elisabeth Jastrow to Semni Karouzou dated 20 December 1956.
 57. About the Greek War Relief Association (GWRA), see Chrissochoidis 2021. S. Stavridis, The Greek War Relief Association and its efforts to save Greece in WW II, *The National Herald*, 4 November 2017. <https://hellenicgenealogygeek.blogspot.com/2018/07/the-greek-war-relief-association-and.html> (last access: July 2022). Πετράκος 2021, vol. II, 370-372.
 58. GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 4, Folder 45, Margaret Thompson to Elisabeth Jastrow on 17 January 1946: 'It is contributions such as yours which make our program possible'.
 59. GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 4, Folder 45: 'Greek War Relief Association, 1943-1946 - Physical Description: 14 items: 8 items to Jastrow, 6 items from Jastrow – Scope and content note – Correspondence and declaration forms regarding general donations and those earmarked specifically for the Karouzous; request from Jastrow regarding loan items for an exhibit of Greek textiles and embroidery'.
 60. GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 4, Folder 45, Letter of thanks from the staff of the National Archaeological Museum in Athens to Elisabeth Jastrow on 10 October 1946.
 61. GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 4, Folder 45, Elisabeth Jastrow to the Greek War Relief Association on 13 November 1943: 'Corporal M. Lekakis just told me that he talked to you about an Exhibit of Greek Textiles



Fig. 7. Passport photo and correspondence of Berta Segall from Greece (Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig, Nachlass Berta Segall).

Berta Segall (1902-1977)

The second part of my article is dedicated to Berta Segall, who also, in her very own way, tried to lead an independent and self-determined life. Her connection to Greece is the Benaki Museum, for which she worked as an archaeologist from 1934 to 1938 (fig. 7)⁶².

Berta Segall was born in East Prussia in 1902, twelve years after Elisabeth Jastrow. Her father was a wealthy factory owner who generously supported his daughter in her studies and travels⁶³. She attended universities in Berlin, Freiburg, Leipzig, Hamburg, and

that we are considering in the Department of Art of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, at Greensboro, N.C. in connection with the drive for clothing for Greece. [...] We would like to have several of those heavy woolen blankets with geometric patterns or stripes, with old natural dyes; some linen dresses with broad colourful embroidery at the bottom of the skirt and the sleeves; and other nice weavings and embroideries. I used to live in Greece, for several years, and I think we should show the very best things. [...] We are eager to do something for Greece. I remember those refugees from Asia Minor in the streets of Athens, and I know how much worse it must be now'. GRI, Elisabeth Jastrow Papers, Box 10, Folder 73, Elisabeth Jastrow to Eva Sikelianos on 18 November 1943: 'Do you think you could send us some pieces of Greek peasant weaving or embroidery, with those beautiful old colours? We would be just delighted. The staff of the Department of Art is very much interested in textiles, and in addition, it would mean so much to interest people in assisting Greece'. About Eva Sikelianos in this volume, see M. Dimitriadou, *Eva Palmer-Sikelianos: on the fringes of archaeology*, 133-140 in this volume.

62. Schmidt 1977. Wendland 1999, 640. Hochwarter 2008. Kankeleit 2019b. Kankeleit 2019c. <https://aktarcha.hypotheses.org/8143> with a poster about Berta Segall (last access: February 2026).

63. LABO Berlin, BEG-Akte Reg.-Nr. 358 814, E4, detailed curriculum vitae with the following information on her education: studies of art history and archaeology in Berlin (with Professors Goldschmidt and Noack), Freiburg (with Professors Jantzen and Dragendorf), Leipzig (with Professors Pinder and Studniczka), Hamburg (with Professors Warburg, Panofski and von Mercklin), and Vienna (with Professors von Schlosser, Loewy and Reisch). LABO Berlin, BEG-Akte Reg.-Nr. 358 814, S414, affidavit of Max Benno Segall from Melbourne dated 17 September 1958: 'Mrs Berta Segall [...] is my sister. We are the children of the factory owner Leo Segall and his

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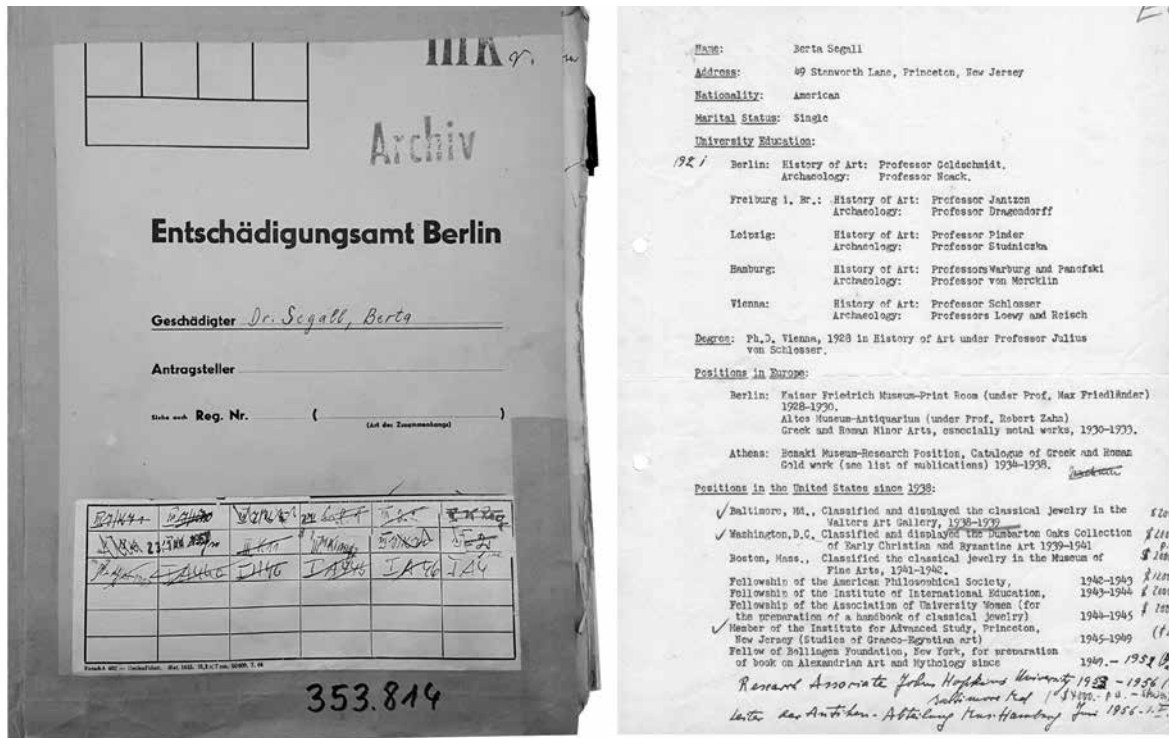


Fig. 8. Curriculum vitae (Compensation Office Berlin, LABO Berlin, BEG-Akte Reg.-Nr. 358 814, E4).

Vienna, and in 1927 completed her dissertation ‘Über die Handzeichnung im Mittelalter’ (On Freehand Drawing in the Middle Ages) under the art historian Julius von Schlosser (fig. 8)⁶⁴. Subsequently, she increasingly specialized in jewellery and goldsmith work and shifted her field of interest to ancient cultures⁶⁵.

Contract and attestation of the National Museums in Berlin

In 1932 Segall signed a service contract with the Staatliche Museen in Berlin to compile a catalogue of the vases, figurative bronzes and terracottas stored there⁶⁶. Due to the new racial laws, this activity also came to an abrupt end. It can be assumed that her employment would have been extended under normal conditions⁶⁷.

wife Ida née Kutzvor, Allenstein East Prussia, who were both Jews. We were brought up in the Jewish faith and are of Jewish descent’. Schmidt 1977.

64. Documents on the dissertation *Zur Handzeichnung des Mittelalters* and the oral examination (‘Rigorosum’) at Hochwarter 2010. As far as is known, there exists no official publication of her dissertation.

65. Her interest in antique jewellery was apparently awakened during her stay in Berlin, where she worked in the ‘Kupferstichkabinett’ (collection of copper engravings) of the Kaiser Friedrich Museum (now Bode Museum) from 1928 to 1930 and then in the ‘Antiquarium’ of the Altes Museum from 1930 to 1933, where she concentrated on metalwork. The ‘Antiquarium’ contained the smaller objects of the antiquities collection: antique ceramics, bronzes, terracottas, coins, precious stones and jewellery.

66. SMB-ZA, I-GV 1254, Bl. 746, work contract between the General Director of the National Museums in Berlin and Miss Dr Segall (Werkvertrag zwischen dem Generaldirektor der Staatlichen Museen in Berlin und Fräulein Dr Segall) dated 3 May 1932: ‘Miss Dr Segall undertakes to compile a card file of the stored vases and figurative bronzes as well as the figurative terracottas and to label the latter’.

67. LABO Berlin, BEG-Akte Reg.-Nr. 358 814, S46, certificate dated 1 June 1933 from Robert Zahn, director of the Department of Antiquities in Berlin [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Zahn_\(archaeologist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Zahn_(archaeologist)): ‘On 31 March this year, Dr Segall had to retire from the service of the museums due to a general state decree. Our sincere wishes for her further life accompany her’.

Support by the German Archaeological Institute and departure from Germany

Apparently, both her former employer, Robert Zahn⁶⁸, and the President of the DAI in Berlin, Theodor Wiegand, were very pleased with her work. Handwritten minutes document that her departure for England was supported by the DAI to the extent of 3,000 Reichsmark⁶⁹.

After her stay in England, about which nothing is known in detail⁷⁰, Segall went to Greece in 1934. There she took up a completely new position, created especially for her, at the Benaki Museum⁷¹.

Work at the Benaki Museum

The Benaki Museum had opened in 1931⁷², so it was a fairly young institution in 1934. Berta Segall's task there was to prepare a catalogue of the extensive collection of goldsmiths' works. It can be assumed that the idea for this catalogue was developed and implemented jointly by the Director of the Benaki Museum, Antonis Benakis, the Director of the DAI Athens, Georg Karo, and the Director of Antiquities in Berlin, Robert Zahn⁷³.

Katalog der Goldschmiedewerke - Arbeiter

Berta Segall expressly thanked Georg Karo and Robert Zahn in her book *Katalog der Goldschmiedewerke - Arbeiter* (Catalogue of the Goldsmiths' Works) published in 1938, for their support in its preparation⁷⁴. From which funds, and in what amount, her work was paid can no longer be determined. In her file at the Berlin Compensation Office, Segall states that she can no longer remember the amount of her earnings at the Benaki Museum⁷⁵.

68. About Robert Zahn (1870-1945), see R. Lullies, Robert Zahn, in Lullies and Schiering 1988, 175-176. Schefold 1949, 101 refers to Zahn as Segall's 'teacher'.

69. About this handwritten note, which is presumably due to an initiative by Theodor Wiegand, see DAI Berlin, AdZ, Altregistratur 11-03, Sitzungen Protokolle ZD, 1926-1941, handwritten protocol from 14 July 1933: 'The president has earmarked special funds [...] Dr Segall 3000 marks for trip to England'. Kankeleit 2019b, 42 n. 46. Kankeleit 2019c, 90 fig. 3.

70. Wendland 1999, 640 mentions a temporary position in the Department of Antiquities at the British Museum in London.

71. The best overview of Berta Segall's life data is provided by the documents in the Berlin Compensation Office and in the Antikensammlung Basel und Sammlung Ludwig.

72. On the foundation of the Benaki Museum by Antonis Benakis, see Segall 1938, 3-5. Delivorias 2000, 16-23. https://www.benaki.org/index.php?option=com_landings&view=founder&lang=en&Itemid=820 (last access: February 2026).

73. The directors of archaeological museums and institutes obviously maintained a dense network of relationships in Greece as well as worldwide, see Whitling 2019, 124-126. About Robert Zahn, see n. 67 above. About Georg Karo (1872-1863), see Davis 2009. Davis 2014. Lindenlauf 2015. Lindenlauf 2016. About Antonis Benakis (1873-1954), see Delivorias 2000, 14-23. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaPfkWSPHgE&t=109s> (last access: February 2026).

74. Segall 1938, 5: 'This work would not have been possible without the understanding and generosity of Mr Antonio Benaki, who gave me a second home in his museum for some time. [...] For information I must thank Professor Karo - Munich, Dr Battke - Florence and Miss Dr Joan Evans - London. This book is dedicated to the man I can never thank with words, my teacher Robert Zahn'.

75. LABO Berlin, BEG-Akte Reg.-Nr. 358 814, E11, Berta Segall to the 'Notgemeinschaft Hamburg' (Emergency Association in Hamburg) on 9 November 1963: 'I simply cannot remember the income I earned during the years at the Berlin Museum. I was a Research Assistant with a contract. Likewise, I cannot remember the income at the Benaki Museum (1934-38). Surely, I can't provide false information'. Almost 30 years later, Segall was to submit to the German authorities precise details of her income in Berlin and Athens. The processing time of her application dragged on accordingly, as it did for many other German-Jewish archaeologists. Elisabeth Jastrow also suffered greatly from these bureaucratic delaying tactics in Germany.

Research at the German Archaeological Institute library in Athens

During her stay in Athens, Segall conducted research in the library of the DAI Athens⁷⁶. There, as well as at the Austrian Archaeological Institute, she met other German-Jewish archaeologists who had fled to Greece to escape the Nazis⁷⁷. Other émigrés included, for example, Willy Schwabacher⁷⁸, Peter Kahane⁷⁹, and Anton Raubitschek⁸⁰.

Snapshots from Greece

We know relatively little about Berta Segall's stay in Greece, her private impressions, and experiences. The fact is that she must have worked very intensively on the catalogue, which was completed on schedule in 1938⁸¹. Apparently, she interrupted her work in Greece only once for a trip to Berlin in 1936⁸². The background was that she wanted to study comparative material for her catalogue in the Collection of Classical Antiquities and probably seek some advice from her former supervisor, Robert Zahn.

Pictures, letters, and notes in Berta Segall's Basel estate give the impression that her stay in Greece also included beautiful and carefree moments, despite the omnipresent threat (fig. 9). The rich photographic material includes snapshots from the interwar period: a street scene in Solonos Street in Athens, a trip to Santorini, and a visit to the Philopappos Monument in Athens. A young man with light hair, with whom she was obviously good friends, appears quite frequently (fig. 9)⁸³.

76. DAI Athen, Archiv, D-DAI-ATH-Archiv-IG-00476DS_00035, excerpt from the guest book of the library of the DAI Athens in 1938. Kankeleit 2019c, 86 fig. 2.

77. About German-Jewish archaeologists who found temporary protection from the Nazi dictatorship in Greece, see Kankeleit 2019b, 36. Kankeleit 2019c, 86.

78. About Willy Schwabacher (1897-1972), see Brands and Maischberger 2012, 171. Boehringer 2014. Brands and Maischberger 2016, 64-65, 231. Kankeleit 2019b. Kankeleit 2019c.

79. About Peter P. Kahane (1904-1974), see H. A. Cahn, Peter Kahane 1904-1974, in Lullies and Schiering 1988, 221-222. Brands and Maischberger 2012, 171. Brands and Maischberger 2016, 64-65.

80. About Antony E. Raubitschek (1912-1999), see M. Jameson, Antony Erich Raubitschek, 1912-1999, *AJA* 103 (1999), 697-698. <https://news.stanford.edu/news/1999/may12/raubitschek-512.html> (last access: February 2026). Brands and Maischberger 2012, 87-88. Brands and Maischberger 2016, 64 n. 76. Obermayer 2014, 745 (Index).

81. Segall 1938. Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 16: 'After the opulent works of Marc Rosenberg on the history of goldsmiths' art [...], the first authoritative treatise was presented by Berta Segall in 1938. The catalogue on the goldsmith's works of the Athens Benaki Museum, which counts jewellery from antiquity to modern Greece among its holdings, was published in an exemplary manner at the time and is still current today, placing Byzantine jewellery on a par with its ancient predecessors. Without being able to draw on extensive older research literature, Segall succeeded in placing the goldsmiths' works, which often came from the art trade, in a chronological framework that is still useful today in part and with certain limitations'. Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2018, 89: 'Since its publication, the Benaki catalogue has been an unsurpassed standard work on the ancient goldsmiths' art of the Greco-Roman and Byzantine eras'.

82. Kankeleit 2019b, 42 n. 49. Staatsarchiv Basel-Stadt, PD-Reg 3a 161467, letter from the General Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany in Basel from 14 April 1964.

83. The young man could be the German-Jewish gynaecologist Ernst Müller (later Ernest Myller, 1893-1953), who lived in Athens from 1933 to 1941 and worked there as a doctor and director of a small private clinic. Berta Segall's estate contains a lengthy newspaper clipping with his obituary. However, very little is known about Segall's personal life. The correspondence in her estate in Basel indicates that she had a very close relationship with her family and especially with her siblings Max, Gregor, and Lotte, see n. 4 above. Anne Weil, a very close friend of Hannah Arendt, was her cousin, see Arendt 2017, 59 n. 11. Wendland 1999, 641 refers to a pre-war relationship with a student of the art historian Werner Weisbach. After reviewing the available documents, it can be determined that there is no indication that Berta Segall had a daughter. The corresponding assumption in the publication Arendt 2017, 64 n. 22 and 203 is most likely wrong. Perhaps the 'Cécile [Cielchen]' mentioned in various letters was her niece.



Fig. 9. Snapshots from Greece (Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig, Nachlass Berta Segall).

Life and work in the United States (1938-1956)

With the ‘Anschluss’, the annexation of Austria in March 1938⁸⁴, Berta Segall no longer felt safe in Athens. Like many other Jews who had found refuge in Greece, she fled from the approaching war to the United States. There she led a very uncertain and nerve-racking life, with frequently changing jobs and locations in Baltimore, Washington, Boston, Princeton New Jersey, and New York⁸⁵.

84. About the ‘Anschluss’ (annexation of the Federal State of Austria into the German Reich), see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anschluss> (last access July 2022). The ‘Anschluss’ in March 1938 also led to changes at the Austrian Archaeological Institute in Athens (ÖAI). On 1 April 1939 the ÖAI was officially dissolved and its previous head Otto Walter was integrated into the structure of the DAI as second director. This also had consequences for the German-Jewish archaeologists, who had found refuge at the ÖAI since 1933; soon to follow on this: Walter Gauss and Alexandra Kankeleit in the jubilee volume *Österreich und Griechenland: 125 Jahre ÖAI Athen* (Austria and Greece: 125 years ÖAI Athens).

85. About her situation in the US: LABO Berlin, BEG-Akte Reg.-Nr. 358 814. Letters from Berta Segall to Georg Steindorff from 1945 and 1947, Universität Leipzig, Ägyptisches Museum Georg Steindorff, <https://arachne.dainst.org>, search keywords ‘Berta Segall’. Institute for Advanced Study, <https://albert.ias.edu/>, search keywords ‘Berta Segall’. Institute for Advanced Study, Director’s Office Member Records, Box 125: Segall, Berta (entire folder contents), correspondence from 1945 to 1955.

At Princeton, she worked with, among others, Hetty Goldman⁸⁶. She also moved in German-Jewish intellectual circles and had contact with the philosopher Hannah Arendt⁸⁷ and the writer Hermann Broch⁸⁸. Several letters and postcards suggest a closer friendship and intimacy⁸⁹.

Return to Germany (1956-1959)

In 1956, Segall returned to Germany to take up a position as curator at the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe in Hamburg. She had already travelled to Greece and other European countries in 1950, as evidenced by numerous stamps in her American passport⁹⁰. In 1956, she was offered a permanent position in Hamburg. However, she remained there for only three years, as she apparently could no longer tolerate the atmosphere in Germany on a permanent basis⁹¹.

Documents in the Berlin Compensation Office, as well as in her private estate, indicate that she was not adequately paid by the museum and also did not accept that former National Socialists could again take over leading positions in Germany⁹². For example, the archaeologist Ulf Jantzen, whom she still knew from Athens and who had been a member of the SS, was to become the new director of the Archaeological Institute in Hamburg in 1960⁹³.

Some finds from Segall's private estate in Basel give a good impression of her mood. For example, a cartoon where Göring, sitting on a cloud together with Hitler and Himmler, says the following: 'Sometimes I think we have committed suicide a bit prematurely, my Führer...' (fig. 10)⁹⁴.

86. About Hetty Goldman, see n. 38 above. About Berta Segall's contact with Hetty Goldman: Institute for Advanced Study, Director's Office, Faculty Files, Box 15, letter from Hetty Goldman to Frank Aydelotte dated 17 October 1945: 'I asked Miss Segall to come to see: me today and we have gone into the matter of her plan of work. [...] She will work exclusively at Mc Cormick hall until the first of the year, but then will have to have the room promised to her last spring in order to unpack her files, set up her typewriter and write the book she has planned'.

87. On Segall's relationship with Hannah Arendt, see n. 83 above. Kankeleit 2019b, 42. Kankeleit 2019c, 91.

88. Arendt and Broch 1996, 108-109 n. 5.

89. Documents on Berta Segall's relationship with Hannah Arendt (1906-1975) and Hermann Broch (1886-1951): Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig, Nachlass Berta Segall, several letters (typed and handwritten) from Hermann Broch to Berta Segall from 1948 to 1951. Handwritten postcard from Hannah Arendt to Berta Segall dated 25 October 1959.

90. Berta Segall's American passport (no. 39761) in the Compensation Office: LABO Berlin, BEG-Akte Reg.-Nr. 358 814, 18.

91. Schmidt 1977. Wendland 1999. She got the new job in Hamburg through Erich Meyer (1897-1967), director of the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe in Hamburg from 1947 to 1961. Documents about her situation in Germany: LABO Berlin, BEG-Akte Reg.-Nr. 358 814, SH13, certificate on her work as a 'wissenschaftliche Angestellte' (scientific employee, research assistant) at the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe dated 8 June 1956.

92. About Berta Segall's payment in Hamburg: Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig, Nachlass Berta Segall, letter from her Hamburg lawyer Oscar Toepfer dated 12 February 1959, describing her employment as 'unterwertig' (undervalue). Berta Segall to the German-American hittitologist Albrecht Goetze (1897-1971) in a letter dated 14 December 1959: 'The three years, which the U.S. allow naturalised citizens to spend in the country of their birth, were up in the Spring of 1959. I therefore had to leave Germany last April and am now in Basel, caught, as it were, in two bureaucraties: The Americans, who keep me out of Germany but allow any other country outside the United States for a stay of five years, and the Germans, who want to bring me back to spend my small rent from the Restitution for Hitler victims inside'.

93. Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig, Nachlass Berta Segall, Herta Snell to Berta Segall on 23 May 1960: '[...] Jantzen also makes friends. I think he must be forgiven (for once) for his SS foolishness; our daughter and mathematical son-in-law are friends with Jantzen and yet both are very sensitive to the SS spirit'.

94. No date is given on the newspaper clipping.

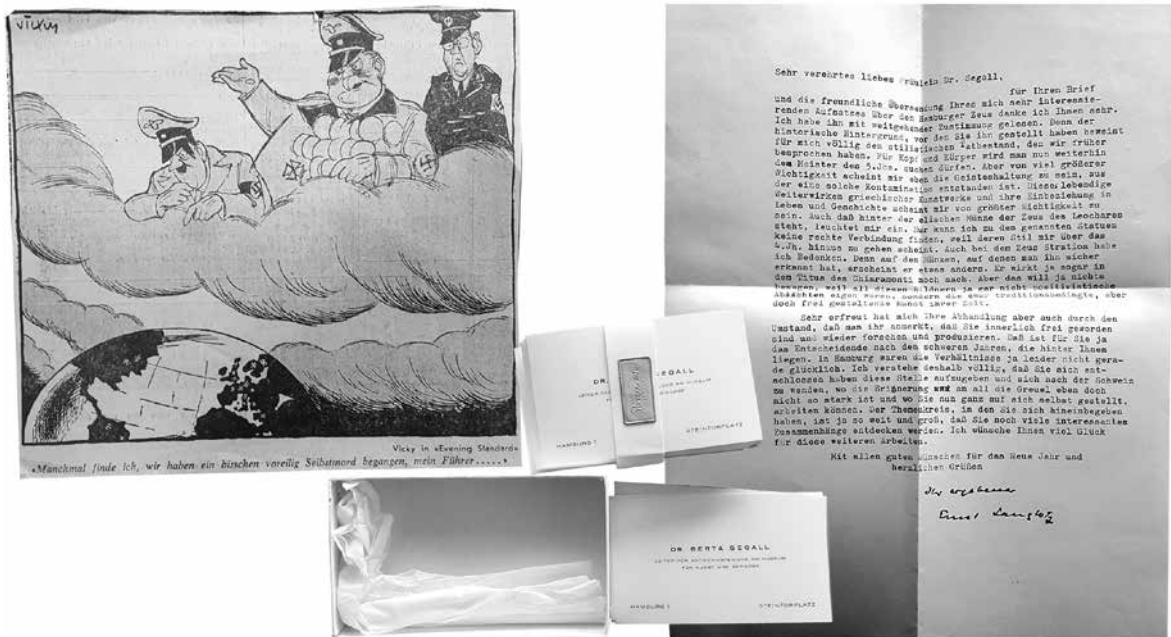


Fig. 10. Caricature featuring Hitler, Göring and Himmler, untouched box of business cards and letter from Ernst Langlotz (Antikenmuseum Basel and Sammlung Ludwig, Berta Segall estate).

Her business cards from the museum in Hamburg remained completely untouched. However, it is remarkable that she kept the still completely filled box as a souvenir for the rest of her life⁹⁵ (fig. 10).

A letter from Ernst Langlotz from 1959 (no specific date given) also provides an impression of the situation at that time. Here is an excerpt: ‘In Hamburg, unfortunately, the conditions were not exactly happy. I therefore fully understand that you have decided to give up this position and go to Switzerland, where the memory of all the atrocities is not so strong and where you can now work completely independently. The subject area you have entered is so broad and large that you will still discover many interesting connections. I wish you the best of luck in this further work’⁹⁶ (fig. 10).

Adopted home in Switzerland (1959-1977)

At the age of 57, Berta Segall settled in Basel. Several German and German-Jewish archaeologists vouched for her so that she could easily obtain a residence permit in Switzerland. These included the aforementioned Ernst Homann-Wedeking as well as Karl Schefold⁹⁷.

In Basel, Segall continued her studies as a private scholar without being directly involved in an institution. Her legacy bears witness to a lively correspondence with numerous scholars and intellectuals from all over the world⁹⁸.

95. Information on the business card: ‘DR. BERTA SEGALL – LEITER DER ANTIKEN-ABTEILUNG AM MUSEUM – FÜR KUNST UND GEWERBE – HAMBURG 1 – STEINTORPLATZ’.

96. About Ernst Langlotz, see n. 16 and n. 2 above.

97. To the references and guarantees for Berta Segall’s stay in Switzerland: Staatsarchiv Basel-Stadt PD-Reg 3a 161467.

98. Kankeleit 2019b, 42. Kankeleit 2019c, 91.

She maintained close contact with the Jewelry Museum in Pforzheim, for which she submitted her last major work, *Zur griechischen Goldschmiedekunst des 4. Jahrhunderts v. Chr* (On Greek Goldsmith Art in the 4th Century BC) in 1966⁹⁹.

Closing words

In 1971, Berta Segall had an unfortunate fall and had to be cared for in a Basel hospital until her death¹⁰⁰. In the last five years of her life, the Swiss-German archaeologist Margot Schmidt¹⁰¹ took care of her. Schmidt wrote the obituary of Berta Segall, which was published in the journal *Antike Kunst*¹⁰², and finally also ensured that Segall's written legacy was handed over to the Antikenmuseum Basel. Rather by chance, it was rediscovered there in 2018 after more than 40 years and has been awaiting closer examination ever since¹⁰³.

Elisabeth Jastrow was to remain in the United States for the rest of her life. From 1941, she was employed as an assistant professor at the Women's College in Greensboro¹⁰⁴. She taught archaeology and art history there until 1961 and enjoyed great popularity among her students and colleagues¹⁰⁵. In 1970, she moved to a nursing home outside Greensboro, where she died in 1981¹⁰⁶.

I would like to conclude my article with a passage from a poem that the writer Hermann Broch sent to Berta Segall in 1948¹⁰⁷. The tender, dreamy and expectant mood matches the youthful portraits of the two archaeologists when the future still beckoned. They would both later manage to remain true to their ideals even in the worst of times:

‘Wenn der Abend den Hafen berührt und den ruhenden Spiegel des Meeres,
blicke dorthin wo das Gestern eintreffen und zum Morgen werden wird
eh' es noch eingetroffen ist'¹⁰⁸.

99. About the publication for the Schmuckmuseum Pforzheim, see Segall 1966b. Segall's work has been acknowledged in at least six reviews, for further information, see <https://zenon.dainst.org/>.

100. Arendt 2017, 203. LOC, Hannah Arendt Papers, 010574, Anne Weil to Hannah Arendt on 21 August 1971: ‘Max Segall is with Berta at the moment (has been for a month). She is obviously past the stage where being with her has any meaning: confused, speech impaired and angry when someone comes. [...] The doctors think it can stay like this for a year, but it can also be over quickly’. LOC, Hannah Arendt Papers, 010576, Anne Weil to Hannah Arendt on 18 February 1972: ‘Berta Segall is still in hospital, the broken leg apparently healed, but with severe nervous disturbances, trembling, falling down, etc., and apparently now really clinically insane. She refuses to let you come – but if I came for you, she wouldn't forbid me to visit her’.

101. About Margot Schmidt (1932-2004), see Stucky 2005. <https://daw.philhist.unibas.ch/de/klassarch/portrait/> (last access: February 2026).

102. Schmidt 1977.

103. Esau Dozio, Curator at the Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig, was a great help in finding and examining Berta Segall's estate. In response to a written request, he embarked on the search and discovered the still largely unexplored documents, some of which could be presented here: letters, photos, newspaper clippings, diary entries and much more.

104. Obermayer 2014, 184-191.

105. Online article, A pillar of inner strength: Dr Elisabeth Jastrow, see <https://uncghistory.blogspot.com/2019/11/a-pillar-of-inner-strength-dr-elisabeth.html> (last access: February 2026).

106. Biographical/historical note about Elisabeth Jastrows, see https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt509nf2m9/entire_text/ (last access: February 2026).

107. Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig, Nachlass Berta Segall, letter from Hermann Broch to Berta Segall, September 1948, handwritten added: ‘Für Berta zum Verstecken’ (For Berta to hide). Cf. Arendt and Broch 1996, 73.

108. English translation: ‘When evening touches the harbor and the resting mirror of the sea, – look to where yesterday intertwines with tomorrow – even before it has arrived’.

Archives

- Antikensammlung Basel und Sammlung Ludwig, Archiv: Nachlass Berta Segall
<http://www.antikenmuseumbasel.ch/> (last access February 2026)
- Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Berlin, Archiv der Zentrale (DAI, AdZ)
<https://www.dainst.org/dai-standorte/zentrale/wer-wir-sind/organisation/archiv> (last access: February 2026)
- Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Athen (DAI Athen, Archiv)
<https://archives.dainst.org/index.php/deutsches-archaologisches-institut-athen-archiv> (last access: February 2026)
- Entschädigungsbehörde des Landes Berlin (LABO Berlin, BEG)
<https://www.berlin.de/lab/entschaedigung-von-ns-unrecht/> (last access: February 2026)
- Forschungsstelle Hannah Arendt-Zentrum, Universität Oldenburg (Hannah Arendt-Zentrum)
<https://uol.de/forschungsstelle-hannah-arendt-zentrum> (last access: February 2026)
- Getty Research Institute (GRI), Elisabeth Jastrow papers, 1870-1971 (bulk 1916-1965)
http://primo.getty.edu/GRI:GETTY_ALMA21124673840001551 (last access: February 2026)
- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU Berlin), Institut für Archäologie, Winckelmann-Institut
https://www.archaeologie.hu-berlin.de/de/lehrbereich_klarcho/winckelmann (last access: February 2026)
- Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Princeton, New Jersey
<https://albert.ias.edu/> (last access: February 2026)
- Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg, Staatsarchiv Sigmaringen
<https://www.landearchiv-bw.de/de/landearchiv/standorte/staatsarchiv-sigmaringen/47267> (last access: February 2026)
- Library of Congress, Collection Hannah Arendt Papers (LOC, Hannah Arendt Papers)
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/hannah-arendt-papers/about-this-collection/> (last access: February 2026)
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ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

Elisabeth Jastrow και Berta Segall: δύο Γερμανοεβραϊκές αρχαιολόγοι στην Αθήνα

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Το άρθρο παρουσιάζει δύο γυναίκες αρχαιολόγους, γερμανοεβραϊκής καταγωγής, που δραστηριοποιήθηκαν επιστημονικά στην Ελλάδα πριν από τον Β΄ Παγκόσμιο πόλεμο. Πρόκειται για την Elisabeth Jastrow (1890-1981) και τη Berta Segall (1902-1976). Προέρχονταν και οι δύο από εύπορες οικογένειες που τους επέτρεψαν να σπουδάσουν στα πιο φημισμένα πανεπιστήμια και με τους πιο διάσημους καθηγητές στη Γερμανία και στην Αυστρία. Μέχρι την άνοδο του Χίτλερ στην εξουσία το 1933, όλες οι πόρτες και οι δρόμοι έμοιαζαν να είναι ανοιχτοί και για τις δύο γυναίκες, ακόμη και επαγγελματικά. Ωστόσο, η ρατσιστική πολιτική των εθνικοσοσιαλιστών τους έφερε σύντομα, για πολλά χρόνια, σε μια κατάσταση διαρκούς φυγής και πάλης για την επιβίωσή τους. Κατά τη διάρκεια αυτής της περιόδου υποστηρίχθηκαν, μεταξύ άλλων, από προσωπικό του Γερμανικού Αρχαιολογικού Ινστιτούτου αλλά και από Έλληνες φίλους και συναδέλφους τους, γεγονός που παρουσιάζεται στο άρθρο. Φαίνεται ότι δεν υπήρχαν σχεδόν καθόλου σημεία επαφής μεταξύ των δύο αρχαιολόγων, κάτι που ίσως οφείλεται στη διαφορά ηλικίας. Αυτό που τις ένωσε, ωστόσο, ήταν ο ενθουσιασμός τους για την τέχνη και τον πολιτισμό της αρχαίας Ελλάδας. Η σύγχρονη Ελλάδα φαίνεται, επίσης, να τις είχε γοητεύσει. Άγνωστα μέχρι πρόσφατα έγγραφα από αρχεία διάσπαρτα σε ολόκληρο τον κόσμο παρέχουν πληροφορίες για τη σχέση τους με τη χώρα και τους ανθρώπους της και ρίχνουν φως σε φιλίες και συνεργασίες που αναπτύχθηκαν στην Ελλάδα.