



Memory Sign to Commemorate

Max Josef Freund

Wednesday,
May 24, 2023
10.00 a.m.
Elisabethstr. 39



What are Memory Signs?



Memory Signs mark places where people lived who were persecuted and murdered by the National Socialists between 1933 and 1945. They are made of brushed steel and gilded. There are two types – either a plaque on a façade or a stele on public property.

With these Memorial Signs we are giving the victims of Nazi persecution, mostly forgotten today, a place back in the community of our city. These signs contain the most important dates of the respective life, details on their fate, and – wherever possible – a photographic likeness. The texts and the images are engraved into the metal with a laser. The perforated surface allows the information to be understood by touch.

You would like to find out more about the project, apply for or sponsor a Memorial Sign? All the information you need, along with detailed biographies of the women, men, and children for whom there are already Memorial Signs, is available on our website: www.erinnerungszeichen.de.

Information

The ceremonies are in English and German. Photos will be taken at the ceremonies for media purposes. Please let us know if you do not wish to be photographed.

Photo credits

Max Josef Freund: private
Young people on this page: Tom Hauzenberger

Design

Dieckmann Design, www.dieckmann.design

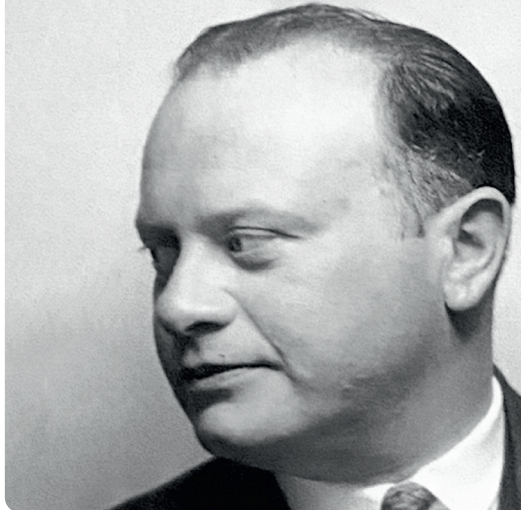
Contact

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Website

www.erinnerungszeichen.de

Max Josef Freund was born on June 20, 1897, in Kleinwallstadt, the first son of the grain dealer Philipp Freund and his wife Jenny, née Stern. He grew up with his brother Manfred, attended secondary school in Aschaffenburg, and completed a commercial apprenticeship. He served in the First World War with the Fifth Bavarian Infantry Regiment and fought in Flanders. After the war Max Josef Freund worked in London, Amsterdam, and from 1923 to 1929 for the firm Gebrüder Goldschmidt in Nuremberg. Max Josef Freund then moved to Munich, where he married Therese “Thea” Lauchheimer in 1929. He worked in the printing firm of his in-laws, Beger & Röckel. Max Josef Freund became an authorized authority of the firm and head of the export department. A son, Philipp Siegfried, was born in 1931, followed by a daughter in 1934, Lieselotte Jenny. In 1932 the well-off family moved into their own apartment in Elisabethstraße 39. A photo album that has survived contains pictures from Tyrol, Merano, Marienbad, and Hamburg.



Max Josef Freund went on many business trips abroad, one of them on October 26, 1937. Upon trying to enter Holland, he was searched at the border. The customs officials found notes concerning various sums of money, which they suspected were evidence of offences against foreign currency laws. Because he was traveling on a permit from the Munich Chamber of Commerce, Max Josef Freund was allowed to enter Holland. His wife was arrested in Munich a day later, however. She was questioned about the notes found on her husband. Max Josef Freund was informed of his wife’s arrest by telephone. It is highly likely that he committed suicide on October 27, 1937, to protect his family. Therese Freund was released. She – together with her children and her mother – left Germany in 1939 on the MS St. Louis, with Cuba as their destination. The ship was not permitted to dock anywhere and after a long odyssey they finally disembarked in Antwerp, from where they traveled to England. At the end of December, they succeeded in emigrating to the United States.

Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 10.00 a.m.

Commemorative ceremony

at the former residence
Elisabethstraße 39
U2 Hohenzollernstraße

- City councilor Sebastian Schall representing the Mayor of the Landeshauptstadt München
- Gesa Tiedemann
District committee 04 – Schwabing-West
- Unveiling of the Memory Sign for Max Josef Freund
- Stefan Dickas
Initiator of the Memory Sign and author of the biography on Max Josef Freund
- Roger Avedon
Grandson of Max Freund
- Philip Freund
Great-grandson of Max Freund
- Christopher Toepfer
Great-grandson of Max Freund
- Madeline Avedon
Granddaughter of Max Freund
- Peggy Yee
Granddaughter of Max Freund
- Rabbi Shmuel Aharon Brodman
sings the *El Malei Rachamim*

Who was Max Josef Freund?