

PRISONER 47 AND AUTHOR: EVA LIPPOLD

By Gabriele Hackl and Birgit Sack



Eva Lippold, nach 1945
Bundesarchiv, BildY-10-21933,
Photo: Heinrich Pöllot

Eva Lippold, née Rutkowski, was born in Magdeburg on April 15, 1909. She was the illegitimate child of Marta Rutkowski, who ironed clothes for a living. When she was two years old, her mother married the widower Wilhelm Zörner, who brought four children into the marriage. Five of her eleven half- and step-siblings, as well as her stepfather perished from tuberculosis. Her mother had to work hard and was barely able to feed the family. At the age of twelve, Eva therefore went to live with her grandmother, who enabled her to undertake an apprenticeship in a fabric dying factory after finishing primary school. After she completed the apprenticeship in 1926, she was intermittently unemployed, finding only short-term positions as a stenotypist. In October 1929 she married Rudolf Lippold, and in July 1930 their son was born.¹ In April 1931, however, the marriage ended in divorce; Eva was deemed “solely responsible on account of extramarital relations”² with her childhood friend Karl Raddatz.³

Eva Lippold had met Raddatz as a girl in Magdeburg’s Sozialistische Arbeiterjugend (Socialist Workers’ Youth organization) in 1922. A typesetter, Raddatz had been a member of the German Communist Party (KPD) since 1927 and was active in the military-political leadership of their regional headquarters in Magdeburg. Through him, in 1932 Lippold landed a job as a typist for the KPD’s daily newspaper, *Tribüne*.⁴ According to a statement she made after 1945, in 1931 or 1932 she too became a KPD party member.⁵

After the National Socialist takeover in January 1933, Eva continued working for the (now banned) paper in the studio of the communist painter Hermann Bruse, who was in charge of illustrations. She first assisted Raddatz and then Hermann Danz,⁶ who succeeded Raddatz as the organizational manager of the (now illegal) regional organization. In November 1933, when a number of communist officials—including Danz and Johann Schellheimer⁷—were arrested, Lippold fled to Berlin. Here she made contact with the communist Arthur Weisbrodt,⁸ whom she had known in Magdeburg. Like him, she became a courier for the national offices of the underground Rote Hilfe (Red Help) organization. This work led her to many places, including Ratibor, Mannheim and Frankfurt am Main; in addition to delivering documents, she also escorted officials and couriers from other regions.

On July 14, 1934, Lippold was arrested and brought to the women’s jail on Barnimstrasse in Berlin. On July 25, 1935, she was convicted by the Second Senate of the Volksgerichtshof (People’s Court) of “arranging highly treasonous activity under aggravated circumstances” and sentenced to nine years in prison.⁹ The maximum sentence—given to her co-defendant Rudolf Claus,¹⁰ the first death sentence ever handed down by the Nazi People’s Court—caused a sensation beyond the courtroom.¹¹ Unlike the other defendants, however, twenty-six-year-old Lippold was a blank slate for the Nazi authorities; she had no record of illegal political activities and she had not been an official with the KPD or Red Help. Nevertheless, the judge classified Lippold and co-defendant Ferdinand Steffens to be “exceptionally fanatical and incorrigible communists” and declared continued police surveillance to be permissible. This assessment was supported by the fact that Lippold was said to have “insistently and unswervingly” continued her activities, despite the incarceration of her superiors. The judges

¹ Their son was adopted by Rudolf Lippold’s sister. See Eva Lippold’s advance notification to the district court of Waldheim about the declaration of consent for the adoption, 24 Mar 1938—20036, #19786, p. 24, Staatsarchiv Leipzig (hereafter StAL). Also, the letter from Elisabeth Thiele, Willy Elze, Elli Materlik and Hedwig Ludwig to the first secretary of the Socialist Unity Party’s Regional Director Alois Pisman, 23 Jan 1976, DY/30/IV 2/11/V/4820, p. 16, Stiftung Archiv der Parteien und Massenorganisationen der DDR im Bundesarchiv (hereafter SAPMO), Bundesarchiv (hereafter BAArch).

² Handwritten résumé, 4 Jan 1938—20036, #19786. 5. StAL.

³ For more on Karl Raddatz, see Weber, Hermann and Andreas Herbst, eds. *Deutsche Kommunisten. Biographisches Handbuch 1918 bis 1945*. Berlin: Dietz Verlag, 2008. 695.

⁴ See: Zarusky, Jürgen and Helmut Mehringer. “The Verdict against Rudolf Claus, Eva Lippold, Ferdinand Steffens, Hans Lippert and Arthur Weisbrodt. Volksgerichtshof (hereafter VGH) 2. Senat, 25 July 1935. *Widerstand als ‘Hochverrat’* 1933-1945. Microfiche 0031f.

⁵ See: Eva Lippold’s questionnaire [after 1950] and short résumé, Rep. 404, Bezirkstag/Rat des Bezirkes Potsdam, Verfolgte des Naziregimes (hereafter VdN), #5161. 19 and 25. Brandenburgisches Landeshauptarchiv.

⁶ For more on Hermann Danz, see: Weber, Hermann and Andreas Herbst. “Hermann Danz” *Deutsche Kommunisten*. Berlin: Karl Dietz Verlag, 2004. 175-177.

⁷ See: *Wikipedia* “Johann Schellheimer.” https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Schellheimer. Accessed 31 May 2017.

⁸ See: *Wikipedia* “Arthur Weisbrodt.” https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Weisbrodt. Accessed 31 May 2017.

⁹ “Verdict against Rudolf Claus et al,” Zarusky and Mehringer, *Widerstand als ‘Hochverrat.’*

¹⁰ See: *Wikipedia* “Rudolf Claus.” https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolf_Claus. Accessed 31 May 2017.

¹¹ The Lutetia-Kreis, an association of Hitler opponents in exile, drafted a protest resolution. See: Palmier, Jean-Michel. *Weimar in Exile: The Antifascist Emigration in Europe and America*. New York: Verso Books, 2006. 348.



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considered mitigating circumstances, however, including the fact that the accused “acted under the strong influence of her friend, the communist functionary Karl Raddatz.” The sentence handed down was nevertheless two years longer than the prosecutor had requested—presumably because the young woman claimed in court to have “acted out of conviction.”¹² She also went to lengths to cover other defendants: on July 1, 1935, she had appeared as a witness before the same court and “evidently attempted to cover” for Arthur Nielsen, with whom she had worked after Weisbrodt was arrested.¹³

After Lippold had served the first two and a half years of her prison sentence in torturous solitary confinement, her mother succeeded in having her transferred from Jauer Women’s Prison to Waldheim Women’s Prison, which was closer to her.¹⁴ On January 4, 1938, while going through the intake process at Waldheim, Lippold claimed she was “not very preoccupied with politics” and would, “in any case, never do it again.”¹⁵ At this point, she apparently no longer expressed communist beliefs. Lippold had paid a high price for the courage of her convictions, and her distancing remarks were not simply a case of protecting herself. She had also denied being a member of the KPD during earlier interrogations.¹⁶ The assessment of Waldheim Prison Director Else Voigtländer—that the prisoner “had acted out of youthful inexperience and idealism for the cause that was at hand in her environment”—must have been, in essence, pretty accurate.¹⁷

As part of Work Group 3 at Waldheim, Lippold wove nets; she was then transferred to the laundry (Work Group 4) in February 1938, where she was entrusted with laundering the clothing of employees. After being ranked within the Lower Level for nearly two years and eight months, she was moved to the Middle Level on April 1, 1938. By letter she stayed in touch with Raddatz. He had been arrested in November 1933 and, along with Danz, sentenced by the Superior Court in Berlin to a three-year prison term in June 1934. Upon his release from Luckau Prison at the end of 1936, he increased his efforts to lighten the confinement of his fiancée,¹⁸ with whom he had planned a future together. In 1938, for her twenty-ninth birthday, he had flowers brought to her from the prison nursery. He sent her books—although the prison administrators rejected some of them as inappropriate for a political prisoner.¹⁹ And especially, he made the most of the restricted opportunities to visit her, going to see her every two to three months until the outbreak of the war drastically restricted visitation and mail privileges.²⁰

Lippold’s passion for poetry supported her during her long incarceration. She had Raddatz include copies of poems in his letters—by Friedrich Hölderlin, Detlev von Liliencron and Stefan George. She could drive away her “low spirits [better] with [poems] than with people.”²¹ In Jauer Prison, Lippold had also begun composing her own poems²² and she wrote and composed songs.²³ In Waldheim Prison, she continued writing poems—including “In der Schlafzelle” (“In the Cell”), “Mutter” (“Mother”) and “Die letzte Nacht” (“The Last Night”). In early 1941, she wrote an adaptation of verses by the British poet Alfred Tennyson, which she followed with others.²⁴ With the consent of the prison administration, she sent Raddatz a notebook of her poems.

Writing became increasingly difficult for Lippold, however, as she could no longer muster “the necessary time and concentration, and then only at night.”²⁵ Sometime in the spring of 1940, her physical and mental condition declined rapidly; in this condition, it helped to “write candidly in her diary, unhindered” and without considering censorship. Her experience with

¹² Zarusky and Mehringer. “Verdict against Rudolf Claus et al,” *Widerstand als ‘Hochverrat.’* Also see Eva Lippold’s letter to Karl Raddatz from the Barnimstrasse Women’s Jail, 31 July 1935, NY 4550/19, SAPMO, BArch. Also see Isabel Richter’s assessment that, in saying she acted out of conviction, Eva Lippold worked against the mitigating argument that she had been influenced by her companions. Richter, Isabel. “Das Andere hat kein Geschlecht. Politische Gerichtsprozesse in der Weimarer Republik und im Nationalsozialismus.” *“Bestien” und “Befehlsempfänger”. Frauen und Männer in NS-Prozessen nach 1945.* Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2003. 182.

¹³ See: Zarusky and Mehringer. “The Verdict against Friedrich Grünberg and Adreas Nielson. VGH 2. Senat, 1.7.1935.” *Widerstand als ‘Hochverrat.’* Microfiche 0030.

¹⁴ Letter from director of Jauer Prison to director of Waldheim Prison, 23 Dec 1937—20036, #19786. 1. StAL.

¹⁵ Note by Else Voigtländer on admittance interview on 4 Jan 1938—20036, #19786. 4. StAL.

¹⁶ Statement while being admitted to Waldheim Prison, 23 Dec 1937—20036, #19786. 4. StAL.

¹⁷ Report of Prison Director per pro. Else Voigtländer to Gestapo headquarters Berlin, 26 Aug 1940—20036, #19786. 93. StAL.

¹⁸ Although Raddatz and Lippold were not formally engaged, they represented themselves to prison authorities as such, in order to be allowed to maintain an extensive exchange of letters.

¹⁹ Letter from Else Voigtländer to Karl Raddatz, 20 Oct 1938—20036, #19786. 45–46. StAL. Re: books by Ludwig Feuerbach *Vom Wesen des Christentums (The Essence of Christianity)* and Ernst Haeckel *Die Welträtsel (The Riddle of the Universe)*.

²⁰ Letter from the prison director to the Dresden Attorney General, 17 May 1940—20036, #19786. 83. StAL.

²¹ Letter from Eva Lippold in Waldheim to Karl Raddatz (transcription), 10 Dec 1939, NY 4550/23, SAPMO, BArch.

²² See: Gudrun Bombach, “Eine unvergessliche Deutschstunde.” *Lausitzer Rundschau.* 13 Apr 1966.

²³ “Wiegenlied” (“Lullaby”), “Nun schlafe mein Kindchen und träume süß” (“Now Sleep My Child and Sweet Dreams”), to the tune of an old lullaby, and “O Bitter Zeit” (“Oh, Bitter Time”), put to music, all written in 1936–37 by Eva Lippold in Jauer Prison. Ausländer, Fietje. *O Bitter Zeit. Lagerlieder 1933 bis 1945.* Aktionskomitee für ein Dokumentations- und Informationszentrum Emslandlager, 2006. Music CD.

²⁴ Transcription, NY 4550/23, SAPMO, BArch.

²⁵ Letter from Eva Lippold in Waldheim to Karl Raddatz (transcription), 10 Dec 1939, NY 4550/23, SAPMO, BArch.



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stenography came in handy for these Sunday Letters to Raddatz, which she never sent, as did the fact that the head prison guard could not read shorthand.²⁶ In one such letter, written in March 1941, Lippold wrote that she suffered from “depressions, coupled with exhaustion and cramping.” She withdrew from fellow inmates and could no longer control herself when dealing with staff members—though some were friendly to her—because she suddenly “despised” them too much. Her condition was the result of not only pleurisy, which was shortly thereafter diagnosed as ulcerous, but also of her fear and horror at the devastation wrought by the war the Germans had started and at the crimes that were being committed by the regime, which she could sense behind the official propaganda.²⁷ Only the thought of “strong, brave friends, fighting against political delusion, sacrificing themselves and dying so we can be better informed” kept her from despair.²⁸

In a statement made to the Gestapo in August 1940, Voigtländer had said that Lippold had “shifted away from her earlier views” and that such “hostile activities” were now “certainly out of the question.” She had nevertheless considered a pardon to be premature at that time, on account of the remainder of her sentence.²⁹ When he visited in April 1941, Raddatz found Lippold in life-threatening condition in the prison infirmary; he turned to her mother to ask the chief prosecutor to pardon her. Also, because of the severity of the illness—which could result in Lippold being considered unfit to serve her sentence—Voigtländer and her superior, Councilor Rudolf Winkler, now approved an early release on probation.³⁰ The chief prosecutor at the People’s Court denied this request on July 3, 1941, however.³¹

By the time news of the denial reached Raddatz, he had again been incarcerated. He was taken from the Magdeburg Police Jail to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where he would remain until the end of the war. Letters now went through his sister, Elisabeth Thiele, who had married Hermann Bruse; together, they visited Lippold in Waldheim in mid-February 1942. She had been moved from the infirmary back to her work group in August 1941. As of January 1, 1942, now thirty-four, she was assigned to work as the secretary of Dr. Helmut Rath in the prison infirmary. In this position, she was responsible for “keeping and recording medical documents and books, writing certificates, and taking care of whatever other tasks came up.”³² She used the opportunity “to help—not everyone, but many,” by adjusting medical documents in the best interest of her fellow inmates. She prescribed pills when the doctor denied treatment. She certified that intelligence tests had been passed—which in some cases could prevent sterilization, such as was the case with her friend Bärbel (Barbara) Schuster.³³

Lippold was allowed to leave Waldheim Prison on July 25, 1943, on condition that she promptly register with the Magdeburg Gestapo. She was spared an additional “preventative detention,” because of her supposed political conversion. The effusively positive job reference that the prison doctor wrote in 1943, at the request of the Magdeburg Gestapo, may have contributed to this considerably; in the letter, Rath mentioned her still unhealed lung problems, as well as “a very good criminal-biological prognosis.”³⁴

In the period before her release, Lippold feared being arrested again or being killed during an air raid.³⁵ Shortly after she was released, she began a relationship with Hermann Danz, who was part of the tight-knit group of friends to which she and Raddatz belonged. After serving his sentence with Raddatz in Luckau, Danz had twice joined him in visiting Lippold in Waldheim and had occasionally sent her postcards.³⁶ After his release in 1937, Danz rallied together a group of politically like-minded individuals, including Johann Schellheimer and Fritz Rödel.³⁷ Lippold’s release occurred about the same time as Danz

²⁶ Unofficial, unsent Sunday Letter from Eva Lippold in Waldheim to Karl Raddatz (transcription), 10 Dec 1939, NY 4550/23, SAPMO, BArch.

²⁷ Unofficial, unsent Sunday Letter from Eva Lippold in Waldheim to Karl Raddatz (transcription), 20 Mar 1941, NY 4550/23, SAPMO, BArch.

²⁸ Unofficial, unsent Sunday Letter from Eva Lippold in Waldheim to Karl Raddatz (transcription), 16 Mar 1941, NY 4550/23, SAPMO, BArch.

²⁹ Statement from prison director, on behalf of Else Voigtländer, to Gestapo headquarters Berlin, 26 August 1940—20036, #19786. 93. StAL.

³⁰ Letter from Rudolf Winkler to the senior Reich prosecutor at the People’s Court, 9 June 1941. 118.

³¹ Letter from the senior Reich prosecutor at the People’s Court to Marta Zörner, copy to the Waldheim penitentiary, 3 July 1941—20036, #19786. 119. StAL.

³² Letter from Helmut Rath to the prison director, 10 August 1943—20036, #19786. 152. StAL. Here, the admittance to this occupation is dated June 1942.

³³ Unofficial, unsent Sunday Letter from Eva Lippold in Waldheim to Karl Raddatz (transcription), 14 February 1942, NY 4550/24, SAPMO, BArch. The identity of Barbara Schuster, incarcerated for child murder, could not be confirmed; for more about her, see Lippold, Eva. *Leben, wo gestorben wird*. Berlin: Der Morgen, 1976. 225–241.

³⁴ Letter from Helmut Rath to the prison director, 10 August 1943—20036, #19786. 152. StAL.

³⁵ Eva Lippold to Karl Raddatz, from final unofficial, unsent Sunday Letter before her release (transcription), 19 July 1943, NY 4550/24, SAPMO, BArch.

³⁶ Postcards in Eva Lippold’s estate, NY 4550/4, SAPMO, BArch. Regarding visit on 30 May 1939, see visitation permit of 24 May 1939—20036, #19786. 65. StAL.

³⁷ Weber and Herbst, “Rödel, Fritz.” *Deutsche Kommunisten*, 737-739.



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was transitioning to active work against the Nazi regime. At the end of 1943, plans gelled and he began working in Magdeburg with Martin Schwantes³⁸ and in close contact with the Berlin communists around Anton Saefkow, in the spirit of the ideas of the Nationalkomitee Freies Deutschland (National Committee for a Free Germany).³⁹

Lippold knew, but did not participate in these underground activities. She was more involved in her own struggle with the after effects of years of imprisonment, including anxiety and absent-mindedness. Conscious that her “days might be numbered,”⁴⁰ she concentrated on her challenging relationship with Danz, hoping to work through her prison experience “at some later point.”⁴¹ The couple did not have much time together: Lippold was conscripted to work as a stenotypist at the Silva Metal Works in Magdeburg-Neustadt, while Danz was intensely busy between his job at a sugar refinery and his resistance activities.

As members of the Saefkow Group were being apprehended in Berlin, arrests were also made in Magdeburg in July 1944. Based on a strong suspicion of involvement and danger of collusion, Lippold was also detained. With matching stories, she and Danz both asserted under interrogation that she had “nothing to do with the whole underground thing.”⁴² On November 1, 1944, the First Senate of the People’s Court sentenced Danz in Magdeburg, as well as Rödel, Schwantes and Schellenheimer, to death. On February 5, 1945, he and his comrades-in-arms were executed by guillotine in the Brandenburg-Görden Prison.

Although the case against Lippold was dismissed at the end of September 1944, due to insufficient grounds for suspicion, she remained incarcerated at the Magdeburg Police Jail until the arrival of American troops in mid-April 1945. Shortly after the end of the war, Lippold left Magdeburg for Berlin. She worked as a cultural consultant for the Berlin Magistrate’s central commission for the Opfer des Faschismus (Victims of Fascism), which Karl Raddatz led. In 1946, she published a collection of texts under the title *... und das in Deutschland (And in Germany, of All Places)*,⁴³ which deplored the postwar reappearance and growth of Nazi elements. Two years later, Lippold helped collect and select farewell letters from members of the resistance who had been executed; the anthology contains a final letter from Danz, which he composed shortly before his trial, so certain was he of a death sentence.⁴⁴

In 1947, Eva Lippold married the sculptor Cay-Hugo Graf von Brockdorff; his wife, Erika, had been a member of the Rote Kapelle (Red Orchestra) resistance group and executed at the Berlin-Plötzensee Prison in May 1943. From 1950 on, they lived in Zossen, near Berlin, and Lippold worked as a freelance writer. For six years, she served as the Socialist Unity Party (SED) secretary in the German Writers’ Association. She published a second anthology, with Manfred Häckel, entitled *Warum ich dafür bin. Stimmen zu unserer Zeit (Why I Am for It: Voices of Our Time, 1960)* that strove for the “system-integrative formation of a political front.”⁴⁵ In this spirit, she reassured readers: “In our state, every development is possible for everyone.”⁴⁶

Her novel *Haus der schweren Tore (House of the Heavy Gates)* was published in 1971, the first installment of a planned and largely autobiographical trilogy. *Leben, wo gestorben wird (Living Where There Is Death)* followed in 1974. According to Lippold, she had needed this significant temporal distance from her persecution [before being able to write about it]. Her third novel, which was to be titled *Die Fremde (The Stranger)*, did not get beyond some preparatory work; it was to revolve around the years after her release from prison and the underground activities of her friends in Magdeburg in 1943-44.⁴⁷ At the heart of her two published books stands her experience of imprisonment, especially in Waldheim. She asserted that she had invented

³⁸ Ibid, “Schwantes, Martin.” 854.

³⁹ See: Zarusky and Mehringer. “The Verdict against Martin Schwantes, Hermann Danz, Johann Schellheimer, Fritz Rödel. VGH 1. Senat, 1 November 1944.” *Widerstand als Hochverrat*. Microfiche 0446.

⁴⁰ Letter from Eva Lippold to Hermann Danz (transcription), 3 December 1943, NY 4550/24, SAPMO, BArch.

⁴¹ Letter from Eva Lippold to Hermann Danz (unsent, transcription), 15 November 1943, NY 4550/24, SAPMO, BArch.

⁴² Interrogations of Hermann Danz, 12 July 1944, and Eva Lippold, 25 July 1944, cited from the short report of the Zentrales Parteiarchiv, 12 February 1981. 4. Also see text from Elisabeth Thiele et al, 23 January 1976, DY/30/IV 2/11/V/4820. 17. SAPMO, BArch.

⁴³ Main Committee for the Victims of Fascism with Eva Lippold (ed.) *... und das in Deutschland nach einem Jahr*. Berlin: Verlagsgemeinschaft GmbH and Welt Altberliner Verlag Lucie Grosser, 1946.

⁴⁴ “Hermann Danz.” *... besonders jetzt tu Deine Pflicht! Briefe von Antifaschisten geschrieben vor ihrer Hinrichtung*. Berlin, Potsdam: Vereinigung der Verfolgten des Naziregimes, 1948. 177–179. At the time, Karl Raddatz was Secretary General of the Association of Victims of the Nazi Regime.

⁴⁵ Häntzschel, Günter, ed. *Literatur in der DDR im Spiegel ihrer Anthologien. Ein Symposium*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2005. 127.

⁴⁶ Lippold, Eva, Manfred Häckel. “Eine Frau – nicht mehr allein. Stadtverordneten-Kandidatin Margarete Budasz.” *Warum ich dafür bin. Stimmen zu unserer Zeit*. Berlin: Verlag des Ministeriums für Nationale Verteidigung 1960. 43.

⁴⁷ For the drafts, see NY 4550/27, SAPMO, BArch.



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none of her characters—although she had “thought through and played out possibilities that could have taken place.” In the literary character of Hermann Danz, she concentrated her relationships with both Danz and Raddatz; the character who carries Raddatz’s name only plays a supporting role as a member of the Magdeburg resistance group.

In her novels, Lippold’s specific objectives included giving expression to “the feelings, the inner conflicts” of the people involved, as well as showing “that women react very differently to prison.”⁴⁸ In fact, the hugely successful public reception of her novels can be attributed to the nuanced and realistic depiction of the prison guards and, in particular, the fellow inmates of Hella Lindau, Lippold’s alter ego. Lindau is depicted as a woman who gains the respect of the prison guards and almost all the criminals without betraying her communist beliefs. It is precisely in confrontations between the political prisoner Hella Lindau and such figures that the author’s own worldview and position are established. While the thief Hilda Frenzel is condemned as “one of those repulsive creatures, without which no exploitative society can exist,”⁴⁹ Lippold developed warm feelings for the child murderer Barbara Schuster, in the novel as well as in reality. As an author Lippold illustrates that—and how—her protagonist was forced to come to terms with her imprisonment: “At the end, I must live here with them.”⁵⁰

When, in a series of articles in May 1975, Lippold “very personally” and “empathetically” depicted the “heroes of the Magdeburg resistance,” some former resistance fighters complained to the First Secretary of the regional SED in Magdeburg about “subjective falsification” and “her publications that do not always correspond to the truth.”⁵¹ They pointed out that Lippold first came to the KPD only after the Nazis had made it illegal, described her behavior in prison as questionable, and her moral conduct as dubious. The Central Party Archive was thus commissioned to look into things; nothing came of it, however, because even in interrogations after her second arrest in 1944, Lippold had never betrayed anyone.⁵² The publication of her novel *Haus der schweren Tore*, which SED leaders approved as “educationally valuable,” thus proceeded despite a temporary delay in publication of the second edition at the end of 1975, ostensibly on account of a paper shortage.⁵³

The DEFA film *Die Verlobte (The Fiancée)*, written and directed by Günter Reisch and Günther Rücker, focuses on the love story between Hella Lindau, the fiancée figure, and her betrothed, who in the film is named Hermann Reimers. It premiered in 1980 and, in the same year, was awarded the coveted Crystal Globe at the 22nd Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. For her literary model, Eva Lippold received the prestigious National Prize of the GDR, First Class. She died in Zossen in 1994, shortly after her eighty-fifth birthday.

Translated by Jason J. Doerre

Gabriele Hackl earned her Master’s in History from the Universität Wien in 2015, with a thesis on “Nationalsozialistischer Strafvollzug und die Frauenstrafanstalt Waldheim in Sachsen” (“Nazi Penal System and the Waldheim Women’s Prison”). She is currently a research assistant at the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Zeitgeschichte and a doctoral candidate at the Institut für Zeitgeschichte at the Universität Wien. Her research focuses on the Sondergericht Wien (Special Court in Vienna) from 1938 to 1945, investigating the history of gender and the legal system during the Nazi period. Hackl is the co-author of *Das Frauenzuchthaus Waldheim (1933-1945)*, published in 2016.

Birgit Sack studied modern and contemporary history, German literature, and social and economic history at the Albert Ludwig Universität in Freiburg. She earned her PhD with a dissertation on the Catholic women’s movement during Weimar Republic. From 1995 to 1997, she worked as a research project manager at the Serbski Institut in Bautzen. Since 1999, she has been the director of the Gedenkstätte Münchner Platz Dresden (Stiftung Sächsische Gedenkstätten). Her research projects include political Catholicism, gender and women’s history, political penal systems in German dictatorships, and resistance and opinion research on the resistance. Sack is the co-author of *Das Frauenzuchthaus Waldheim (1933-1945)*, published in 2016.

⁴⁸ See: Wetzel, Maria. “Von Büchern, die erschüttern und gleichzeitig Mut machen. Gespräch mit Eva Lippold über ihre Roman Trilogie *Haus der schweren Tore*.” *Neues Deutschland*, 3 December 1980.

⁴⁹ Lippold, *Leben, wo gestorben wird*. 71.

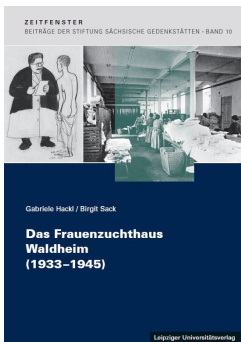
⁵⁰ Lippold, *Leben, wo gestorben wird*. 54.

⁵¹ Text by Elisabeth Thiele et al., 23 January 1976, DY/30/IV 2/11/V/4820. 18 & 15. SAPMO, BAArch.

⁵² Short report, Zentrales Parteiarchiv, 12 February 1976, DY/30/IV 2/11/V/4820. 3–6. SAPMO, BAArch.

⁵³ Report, 9 December 1975, DY/30/IV 2/11/V/4820. 11.

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