

Curriculum vitae.

[July 1938]

I, the undersigned ERNST HARTWIG KANTOROWICZ, was born in 1895, May 5 at Posen, capital then of a Prussian province, where my father owned a well known factory, founded by his grandfather in 18__.¹ I was educated at Posen at the Royal Auguste Victoria Gymnasium. classical state school, which I left in 1913 after having passed the final examination (Abiturium). As my father suggested to me, that I should join him in his business, I went to Hamburg in order to become acquainted with the world of trade, finance and economy. When war broke out in August 1914, I immediately volunteered and joined the colours and was sent to the front in France in September 1914. After fighting in the battles around of Verdun I was wounded in July 1916. Then, after my recovery, I was sent to Russia and, in 1917, to a German staff in Turkey; in 1918 I returned to the French front, where I remained till war ended.

In 1919 I took up arms again: against the communists, then in power at Munich, and I was wounded once more. Then I began to study economics and history at the universities of Berlin, Munich and Heidelberg. My teachers at Heidelberg, where I took my degree, the Dr.phil., magna cum laude in June 1921, were Alfred Weber, Eberhard Gothein and Karl Hampe. My special subjects were History of Economics, Geography and Arabic Philology; in my (unprinted) thesis I dealt with the problems of "Islamitic Corporations".

For the following six years, which I spent mostly at Heidelberg, I worked on a book on the Swabian Emperor Frederick the Second (1194–1250), which was published first in 1927, ran through five editions (about 15,000 copies) and has since been translated into English (1931; the book launched a series called "Makers of the Middle Ages", published by Constable & Co.Ltd. in London). An Italian version is just now prepared by Fratelli Treves at Milan, and present negotiations with the "Revue Nouvelle Française may result in a French translation.

After having published this book I spent some time at Rome, here I worked at the Vatican Archives and at the Istituto Storico Prussiano. In 1931 I published the second volume of "Frederick the Second" ("Ergänzungsband. Quellenachweise und Exkurse") containing the authorities and several researches on the subject mentioned above.

By this time, in 1930, I had received a call to the University of Frankfurt-on-the-Main as Professor without salary (Honorarprofessor). I accepted and I taught Mediaeval History in the usual way, i.e. lecturing four hours a week and holding seminary partly for freshmen, partly for advanced undergraduates. When the chair in Mediaeval History fell vacant by the death of Fedor Schneider in 1932, I was appointed his successor and became ordinary professor at the University of Frankfurt. The subjects of my lectures were: History of Humanism, History of the Normans and the political History of various periods.

When the new regime came into power in 1933, I applied for leave and accepted an invitation of the Warden of New College, the Rt. Hon. H.A.L. Fisher, who asked me to stay at Oxford as an honorary member of the Senior Common Room of New College for two terms. There I was in position to continue my researches on the German "Interregnum" (1250-1308) and, more important even, I was given the opportunity as well of lecturing as of tutoring some advanced undergraduates. I also gave lectures at St. John's college Oxford and at the Mediaeval

¹ The copy being transcribed here was clipped too short on the right side, so that bits of words got cut off; in this case--what year in the 1800s is meant--cannot even be guessed at.

Society, presided by Professor F. M. Powicke. As I had no longer leave from the German Board of Education, I was bound to return to this country in July 1934.

In November 1934 I definitely lost my chair at Frankfurt. I had to retire and became a professor emeritus. From then on I stayed in Berlin, where I continued my work. But as I could not expect to have a book printed on a subject concerning German History, I began to collect documents on the history of the Dukes of Burgundy of the Valois race. As I could travel in those days, I could make use of the archives and libraries at Brussels, Paris, Venice, Mantua and other places. But since 1938 things altered: now I can never travel abroad nor can I use the archives of this country. So, for the moment, I have also put aside the work on the Dukes of Burgundy and I am preparing a collection of a few published and of more unpublished papers on the history of mediaeval knowledge and education, following in some way the traces of the late C.H.Haskins, L.J.Paetow and other American scholars, who have been leading in this section of historical learning. Yet, the slight chance of publishing books or papers in German language has vanished almost completely, since Vienna, where I published a paper on "Petrus deVinea in England" as late as January 1938, became German by the 'Anschluss'. Unfortunately, therefore, I have no possibilities of working productively at present.

As to my knowledge of English I may add, that I had an English governess for the first twelve years of my life and that I had no difficulty at Oxford either in lecturing or teaching. For references I may mention the Warden of New College, Prof. F. M. Powicke (Oriel College Oxford), Prof, T.S.R.Boase (Courtauld Institute, 20 Portman Square, W.1.), Mr.Austin Lane Poole (St.John's College Oxford) and Dr.C. M.Bowra (Wadham College Oxford).

Berlin, 29th July, 1938.

[Signed]

E. H. Kantorowicz