



LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

THOMAS MANN and the Ludwig Maximilian University

The writer and Nobel Prize winner (1929) Thomas Mann (1875–1955) repeatedly performed in the LMU Auditorium during his almost 40 years in Munich.

On May 16, 1929 he spoke about »Freud's position in modern intellectual history«, on July 7, 1930 and July 5, 1931 he read parts from his then unpublished novel *Joseph and His Brothers* and on June 8, 1932 he delivered the Lecture »Goethe's career as a writer«. Thomas Mann had his last public appearance in Munich for

many years on February 10, 1933 in the Audimax with the lecture »Sufferings and Greatness of Richard Wagner« as a dress rehearsal for a lecture tour to Amsterdam, Brussels and Paris. One passage in particular was the occasion for a »Protest of the Richard-Wagner-City Munich«, instigated by the Munich General Music Director Hans Knappertsbusch and signed by Munich professors, including the LMU, which forced Thomas Mann into exile.

»at risk of being misunderstood«



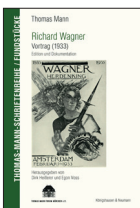
The LMU's Thomas Mann Hall was inaugurated in September 2022: The bronze bust »Thomas Mann« (1970) by the publisher Dr. Gottfried Bermann-Fischer is on permanent loan from the Thomas-Mann-Forum Munich.

Photo: Wolfgang Pulfer



Historical view of the Auditorium maximum, around 1930

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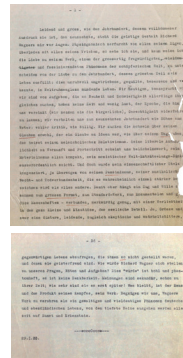
In contrast to the essay »Sufferings and Greatness of Richard Wagner«, which appeared in the *Neue Rundschau* (Berlin) in April 1933, the lecture was not edited and commented on until 2018.

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Münchner Neueste Nachrichten (München), Easter 1933 with an addendum of April 20, 1933

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Titel, first and last page of the lecture »Richard Wagner«, dated »29.I.33«

Fig. in: *Thomas Mann: Richard Wagner. Vortrag (1933). Edition und Dokumentation. Herausgegeben von Dirk Heißeberger und Egon Voss. Würzburg, Königshausen & Neumann, 2018 (Thomas-Mann-Schriftenreihe, herausgegeben von Dirk Heißeberger für das Thomas-Mann-Forum München, Fundstücke, Band 7), S. 6, 8, 36*

Richard Wagner
Vorlesung

~~Dilettantisten geboren~~
~~sondern mit Leidenschaft~~
auf die Gefahr hin, mich
mit höchster Willenskraft
Genieshafte getriebener D
Künste selbst hat etwas
Kraft vollzogene Unterwe
druckgenie im Dilettant
felhates um seine Bezie
haftet ~~aber~~ etwas Amüsanc

The ,obnoxious' passage read: »In fact, not only the superficial but the admiring and impassioned observer might well say, at risk of being misunderstood, that Wagner's art is dilettantism, monumentalized and lifted into the sphere of genius by his intelligence and his enormous will-power.«

Thomas Mann: Sufferings and Greatness of Richard Wagner (1933), in: Thomas Mann: Essays Of Three Decades. Translated from the German by H. T. Lowe-Porter. New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1947, p. 307–352, here p. 316. The original passage can be found in the publication mentioned (Fig. L3–4), p.15



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THOMAS MANN and the ›White Rose‹

The sixth leaflet campaign by the ›White Rose‹ student group, which failed in the atrium of the LMU on February 18, 1943, had also reached Thomas Mann in exile in California in Pacific Palisades above Los Angeles via foreign newspapers. In his radio address to »Deutsche Hörer!« on June 27, 1943, he goes into detail, with a few errors:

»Today, the whole world is deeply moved by the events at Munich University. Swiss and Swedish newspapers reported on it, first vaguely, then in increasingly heart-rending detail. We now know the names of Hans Scholl, a survivor of Stalingrad, and his sister [Sophie];

we know of Adrian [Alexander] Probst and Professor Huber, and all the others. We are aware of the uprising over Easter in response to the revolting address by a Nazi official in the university's large lecture hall. We are aware of their martyrdom at the guillotine. And we know about the leaflet they circulated; it contains language that redresses the many violations of the spirit of liberty committed at the German universities in recent years. Good, glorious young men and women! You shall not have died in vain! You shall not be forgotten!«

Translation: Prof. Dr. Hans Rudolf Vaegt, Northampton, MA, USA

**»You shall not have died in vain!
You shall not be forgotten!«**



Exterior view of the university with the tram station, around 1933

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The historic atrium of the university

© LMU, Universitäts-Archiv



The sixth White Rose leaflet in a Royal Air Force version

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Title of the second German edition of Thomas Mann's radio speeches to »German listeners!« (1945) with the broadcast of June 27, 1943

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Cover and title of the first edition of »Doctor Faustus« (1947)

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In Thomas Mann's exile novel »Doctor Faustus« (1947), Chapter XXI also mentions Professor Dr. Kurt Huber as »the passionate scholar around whom the horribly drenched student uprising in Munich centered in the summer.« And so, with reference to Thomas Mann's far-reaching Wagner lecture in 1933 and the leaflet campaign of 1943, there are two reasons why, in Chapter XLII of the novel, a murder in the tram takes place just as the university is being passed. The jealous Ines Institoris shoots the violinist Rudolf Schwerdtfeger. The eyewitness Serenus Zeitblom advises »that the wounded man be carried over into the university, where the janitor could telephone for the police and an ambulance, and where, to my knowledge, there was

a first-aid station«. He succeeds »to rouse the janitor from his basement quarters« and putting »the now unconscious victim (...) on a sofa«, but Rudolf died »on the way to the hospital«.

Thomas Mann: Doctor Faustus. The Life of the German Composer Adrian Leverkühn as told by a friend. Translated from the German by H. T. Lowe-Porter. New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1948, p. 449–450

Thomas Mann was a founding member of the Munich University Society in June 1922. In the same year his father-in-law, the mathematician Prof. Dr. Alfred Pringsheim (1850–1941), since 1886 first associate professor and since 1901 full professor at the LMU, retired.

Quellenangaben

THOMAS MANN und die Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität



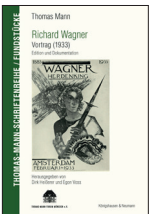
Die Thomas-Mann-Halle der LMU wurde im September 2002 eingeweiht. Die Bronzebüste »Thomas Mann« (1970) des Verlegers Dr. Gottfried Bermann-Fischer ist eine Dauerleihgabe des Thomas-Mann-Forums München.

Photo: Wolfgang Pulfer



Historische Ansicht des Auditorium maximumum, um 1930

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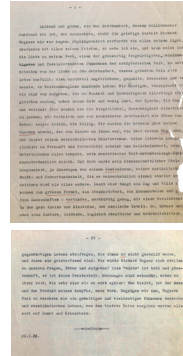
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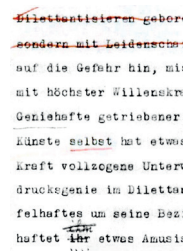
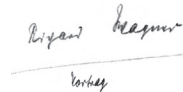
Münchener Neueste Nachrichten (München), Easter 1933 with an addendum of April 20, 1933

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Erste und letzte Seite des Vortrags »Richard Wagner«, datiert »29.1.33«

Fig. in: Thomas Mann: Richard Wagner. Vortrag (1933). Edition und Dokumentation. Herausgegeben von Dirk Heißeherer und Egon Voss. Würzburg, Königshausen & Neumann, 2018 (Thomas-Mann-Schriftenreihe, herausgegeben von Dirk Heißeherer für das Thomas-Mann-Forum München, Fundstücke, Band 7), S. 6, 8, 36



Die »anstößige« Passage lautete: »Tatsächlich und nicht nur oberflächlich, sondern mit Leidenschaft und Bewunderung hingeblickt, kann man sagen, auf die Gefahr hin, missverstanden zu werden, dass Wagners Kunst ein mit höchster Willenskraft und Intelligenz monumentalisiert und ins Geniehafte getriebener Dilettantismus ist.«

Thomas Mann: Richard Wagner. Vortrag (1933). Edition und Dokumentation. Herausgegeben von Dirk Heißeherer und Egon Voss. Würzburg, Königshausen & Neumann, 2018 (Thomas-Mann-Schriftenreihe, Fundstücke, Band 7), S. 7–34, hier S. 15

THOMAS MANN und die Weiße Rose



Außenansicht der Universität mit der Trambahnstation, um 1933

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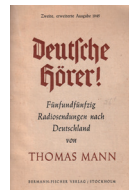
Der historische Lichthof der Universität

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Flugblatt der Weißen Rose in einer Fassung der Royal Air Force

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Titel der zweiten Ausgabe von Thomas Manns Radioreden an Deutsche Hörer! (1945) mit der Sendung vom 27. Juni 1943

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Umschlag und Titel der Erstausgabe des Doktor Faustus (1947)

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