

Academy of Jewish Research

June 23, 1934

Personal

Professor A. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
Ohlstedt, near Hamburg
Germany

Dear Professor Mendelssohn:

Many thanks for your letter concerning Guido Kisch. There is an even chance of our being able to make a grant to the Academy of Jewish Research on his behalf. Frankly the situation at the moment is that we have no money. Even more frankly and confidentially I am utterly disgusted with the various organizations raising a disbursing funds for the relief of German refugees. The amount of politics and wire-pulling is amazing. I do not know what the final outcome will be so far as the financial position of this Committee is concerned.

The real problem over here comes from the fact that in the minds of most people the matter is considered as exclusively one of Jewish persecution, which it certainly to my mind at least is not. The comparative indifference of American scholars in the face of what is happening in Germany is not encouraging, and does not make one optimistic concerning the vigor with which academic freedom would be defended in this country in the face of the attacks already being made upon it. Harold Laski, writing in a recent issue of the Yale Review put the matter very well when he said that the success of any attack upon liberty and freedom may be measured in terms of the indifference of its defenders.

I had hoped for the pleasure of seeing you again during the next few months but the affairs of this Committee in addition to the work of the Institute, prevent my leaving the office during the coming summer.

With best personal wishes,

Sincerely yours,

E. R. Murrow
Assistant Secretary

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