

# INSTITUT FÜR GESCHICHTE/ZEITGESCHICHTE

Mag.Dr. Margit Franz



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Graz, 1.7.2010

Dear Mr. Raza,

We haven't met for quite some time, I hope from the deepest of my heart that you are well, healthy, light-hearted and surrounded by love and happiness!

I am the Austrian lady scholar doing research on Langhammer, Leyden, Schlesinger. We met in Paris and I was happy to meet you again during your 85<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in New Delhi. I was fortunate enough to be gifted Ashok Vajpeyi's big book on you. Actually there is photo of your atelier with all the little things you have collected over the years. I open this page sometimes and just leave it open, it reminds of the few days with you and Akhilesh in Paris. There is so much to tell....

Anyway, in the meantime I settled in Austria again, have continued my research on Langhammer & Leyden & Schlesinger intensely. I attach you three articles, in German, just for documentation. I am presently working on one English article on all four (Käthe & Walter Langhammer, Rudi & Schlesinger) for an Indian-US coffee-table-book "Jewish Refugees in India: Holocaust Haven in Hodu", the working title of my article is: "Exile meets Avantgarde: the Art Connoisseurs and Promoters Rudi von Leyden, Emmanuel Schlesinger, Käthe & Walter Langhammer." Actually one of the editors of the book, Ken Robbins, has recently bought one of your water-colors (I think it was "flora fountain") which has a portrait of Mrs. Langhammer on the back. It shall also be pictured in the upcoming article.

I am fine and happy to be able to do all the interesting work. There is a offer of Marg publications in Mumbai to do a book on Langhammer, and

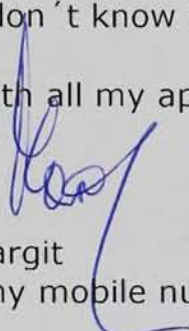
James Leyden, Rudi's nephew and inheritor, asked me to do one on Rudi. Kekoo Gandhi, who I visit every time, when I am in India, has gifted me an oil-portrait of Rudi which is said to be by his wife Nena. It is hanging in the entrance hall of our small house, I feel very special about the painting and feel that Rudi is watching over us. Everybody is asking if he is a relative :)

For end of 2012 or early 2013 we are planning an exhibition on Langhammer & his circles in his home town of Graz. I have just completed an article which tries to introduce Langhammer to Austrian art history for the historical yearbook of the City of Graz 2010 (it will be published in 2 weeks, I will send you the article after publication).

I will be in France this august and would be very happy and pleased if we could meet. I am visiting some people who have private collections (friends of Langhammers & Rudis) and some archives in Switzerland and France before proceeding to the UK to work with the Leyden family. I am very flexible, timewise and locationwise, I could come to Paris or Gorbio, wherever it would be convenient and more comfortable for you.

I don't know how to end the letter where there is still so much to tell...

With all my appreciation and very best wishes



Margit

(my mobile number in Austria is: 0043-699-81 61 71 59)

PS: the latest article "Sanskrit to Avantgarde" has just been published. In August 2009 I gave the introduction talk of the Jubilee conference on 60 years of Indo-Austrian relations in New Delhi, where I tried to highlighten Rudi's contribution as a living link between India & Austria. The published article is the German version of it. I send it to you for documentation, as I have used a photo (nr. 6) from James' Leyden's archive which show all of you attending the farewell dinner for Souza at Rudi's place. I had never seen these photo published before. And photo Nr. 1 shows a portrait by Langhammer of Mrs. Annie Heilig, she was also an artist and married to the Austrian physician Robert Heilig. They resided in Jaipur, but came out to Bombay frequently watching movies. You might have met them as well.