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BOOK REVIEW

Edgar Feuchtwanger. Erlebnis und Geschichte. Als Kind in Hitlers Deutschland - Ein Leben in England. Aus dem Englischen von Manfred Flügge

Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 2010.

This German version of my father Edgar's memoir is the second of his works to appear in translation in 2010 in the Duncker & Humblot imprint, the other being *Englands deutsches Königshaus*. A translation of his biography of Disraeli is still to come. In 2003 and 2007 Duncker & Humblot also published the essays and correspondence of my grandfather Ludwig, brother of Lion. Duncker & Humblot's decision to publish these five volumes is *inter alia* an act of restitution, although the present owners were not around in 1936 when Ludwig was forced out of his position as its director by the Nazis.

That part of the Ludwig-Lion-Edgar Feuchtwanger tale, and much else besides, are presented in this urbane, lucid memoir. Edgar enlisted the help of Marta Feuchtwanger biographer Manfred Flügge in preparing the German version, and the result is not dissimilar to some of Flügge's own works: 20th century figures and events come and go within a leisurely narrative peppered with authorial analysis.

Until 1939, Edgar lived with his parents opposite the Munich apartment of Hitler, and he provides eye-witness descriptions of the *Führer* at such crucial moments as on the Night of the Long Knives. His father's relationship with significant figures of the day, such as Carl Schmitt, Max Weber and of course his elder brother Lion, fill separate chapters. Lion, as a writer of political novels, was the more radical and outspoken of the two brothers, and Edgar vividly describes the family's feelings concerning his satirical depiction of Hitler in *Erfolg* and the expected outcome (three years later Lion was stripped of his citizenship and assets).

Having the name Feuchtwanger eventually became life-threatening to Ludwig too, during his internment in Dachau concentration camp. After his release in December 1938, with financial backing from Lion he moved his family to England. Edgar aged 14 was deposited in an alien environment, but he quickly assimilated into the British establishment by winning places at a top public school and Cambridge University and eventually marrying the daughter of a decorated British general.

Edgar is mentioned prominently in Richard Evans' "industry survey" *Cosmopolitan Islanders: British Historians and the European Continent*, and holds a *Bundesverdienstkreuz Erster Klasse* for his contributions to Anglo-German relations. It therefore comes as no surprise to find this memoir imbued with an unusually intimate understanding of both countries.