



from  
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### ADEST QUI LIBERE MAULT LOQUI\*

Stefan Heym, the German-born writer who fled arrest by the Nazis in 1933 and, after a stay in Prague, came to live in the USA, has just given his extensive archive of writings, manuscripts, first editions, tapes, newspapers and pamphlets to Cambridge University Library. Heym, writing in both English and German, began his literary career in the United States, but he returned to Germany in the fifties. He was to become an East German people's hero in his struggle against the more oppressive aspects of the former German Democratic Republic, a struggle which lasted until the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

The Stefan Heym archive is extraordinary in both its diversity and its richness. All periods of Heym's life are covered, and the material has been meticulously preserved and ordered. His high profile at the time before and after the re-unification of Germany is seen best in that part of the archive which contains an extensive collection of his journalistic work and his audio- and video-tapes. With regard to his fiction, the sources, plot outlines, character studies and discarded sections from his novels are all preserved intact and provide a fascinating insight into the mind of a writer and the process of his writing. There is much material from Heym's activity in the United States and in the Psychological Warfare Division of the US Army, such as his broadcasts from Radio Luxemburg and the anti-Nazi pamphlets written by him and dropped over German lines as the front advanced across Western Europe in World War II, as well as the first German language newspapers co-edited by him and published by the US Army at the end of the war in the American Occupation Zone of Germany. For students interested in the history and cultural life of East Germany, the archive offers untold riches and in many respects encapsulates the social and intellectual history of the nation.

\* Here is a man who has chosen to speak freely

Phrase used to present Stefan Heym for his honorary degree in Cambridge

Heym first visited the University of Cambridge in 1984, when he gave a public lecture in Trinity College, met scholars in the Department of German, and paid an extended visit to the University Library. His decision to place the archive there had already been taken in GDR times, but recent developments in Germany have confirmed his feeling that scholars and other interested people may be better served by its location in an English-speaking country. Much of the material is, of course, in English, the language of composition for all his fiction and parts of his non-fiction between 1942 and 1971. A good deal of this was translated by himself into German, as was some of the German writing done by him into English.

Heym, who graduated at Chicago University, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by the University of Berne in 1990 (for his widely acclaimed novels *The King David Report* and *The Wandering Jew*), and the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by Cambridge in 1991 — “for his unique contribution to German literature, and for the inspiration which he has given to the people of East Germany in their progress towards democracy”.

The archive will represent a magnificent resource for postgraduate study in Cambridge. A number of items will have to be embargoed for the customary period, but the bulk of the material will be available for scrutiny as soon as cataloguing is complete. An exhibition of some of the most fascinating items is planned for Spring 1993.

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