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THE DRESDEN VILLAS OF THE VON KLEMPERER FAMILY

Staatliche
Kunstsammlungen
Dresden



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In the late 1930s, the political situation in Germany and the increasingly repressive measures enacted against Jewish citizens forced the von Klemperer family to seek refuge in other countries – the brothers Victor (1876–1943) and Ralph Leopold (1884–1956), both from Dresden, in Southern Rhodesia (present-day Zimbabwe) and South Africa, and their brother Herbert Otto (1878–1951), a one-time Berlin resident, in England.

After Ralph Leopold had left Germany together with his family in 1937 and settled in South Africa, Victor and his wife Sophie, née Reichenheim (1887–1976), managed to leave Germany in the spring of 1938.¹ However, the German authorities had only issued them with passports 'for a single journey for the purpose of gathering information about possibilities for emigration',² permitting them to leave with only a small amount of hand luggage. The events of the Reich-wide November Pogrom of 1938 made it abundantly clear that it would be impossible for the family to return to Germany, dashing all plans of travelling back once more to Dresden for a short time in order to arrange their affairs and salvage at least a small number of personal belongings.³ So it was that the National Socialist state uprooted these distinguished Dresden citizens; today little trace remains in Dresden of the von Klemperers, a family that once enjoyed great influence and respect. This essay will focus on their villas in Dresden.⁴ These houses were not only a meeting place for national and international visitors alike but were above all the heart of their family life.

The essay will deal with three villas in Dresden: firstly, the villa at 25 Wiener Strasse (fig. 1), which was occupied by Gustav (1852–1926) and Charlotte, née Engelmann (1857–1934) and in which their three sons Victor, Herbert Otto and Ralph Leopold grew up, and secondly the villa at 64 Tiergartenstrasse (fig. 14), built by Victor and his wife Sophie. Neither of these villas survived the bombardments of the Second World War. The third house discussed here, the villa at 86 Wiener Strasse (fig. 29), where Ralph Leopold lived with his wife Lili, née Huldshinsky (1893–1979) and their family, escaped destruction in the war.



1—25 Wiener Strasse, corner of Wiener Strasse – Gellertstrasse, c. 1927
View looking north-west

25 Wiener Strasse

Gustav and Charlotte von Klemperer

After Gustav von Klemperer joined the Dresdner Bank in 1890 as a member of the board of directors, his influence and standing grew rapidly.⁵ The apartment on Winckelmannstrasse that Gustav occupied together with his wife Charlotte and their three sons⁶ was no longer commensurate with Gustav's aspirations and status. Not least owing to the parents' increasing 'social intercourse' – as their son Victor puts it in his memoirs⁷ – a house had to be found that was of ample size and suitable grandeur.

The choice was narrowed down to a villa on the corner of Wiener Strasse and Gellertstrasse (figs. 1–3). Located in a well-to-do area on the edge of the historic city centre, and close to the green expanses of the Grosser Garten public park, the villa and its grounds seemed to offer all that Gustav von Klemperer had imagined as a future home for himself and his family. Equally, representatives from the worlds of finance and commerce could now be received in the appropriate fashion.

The villa had previously been owned by Count Adolf Ludwig Karl von Platen-Hallermund,⁸ who died in Dresden in 1889. In the Dresden city directories, whose validity as a source should be approached with caution,⁹ Gustav von Klemperer is listed initially as a tenant at the property later known as Wiener Strasse 25¹⁰ from 1891/92, and from 1896 as its owner. Moving to this generously proportioned villa represented a milestone for the family. It now offered the family and their domestic staff sufficient space, and each son, Victor von Klemperer remembers, had his own room,¹¹ doubtless a matter of importance to the three growing brothers.

When the von Klemperer family moved to Wiener Strasse, the house evidently consisted of a ground floor with a first floor above.¹² It was later enlarged with the addition of a spacious mansard floor in 1920.¹³ By this time the sons had long left home and started their own families. The villa that Gustav and Charlotte von Klemperer now occupied on their own¹⁴ offered a suitable setting for the display of their outstanding porcelain collection and numerous art treasures. The art dealer Hermann Ball in particular was said to have brought Gustav and Charlotte von Klemperer 'something almost daily – porcelain, furniture and art objects', with the result that soon 'each room in the house [was] a small



2 – 25 Wiener Strasse, garden façade, before 1933
Looking south-east



3 – 25 Wiener Strasse, entrance façade, before 1933
Looking north-east



4 – 25 Wiener Strasse, before 1933 Salon



5 – 25 Wiener Strasse, before 1933 Salon

museum' (figs. 4–6).¹⁵ For the couple it must have been a blessing that their sons Victor und Ralph Leopold, who had stayed in Dresden, were not far away; both sons lived within walking distance of Wiener Strasse 25. Victor's memoirs record that his parents often spent the evening with him and his family at 64 Tiergartenstrasse and that they delighted in the close contact with their sons and grandchildren.¹⁶ A highlight in the life of Gustav and Charlotte von Klemperer was their golden wedding anniversary, which they celebrated on 25 July 1925 in the grounds of their eldest son's villa. Victor had a marquee erected at 64 Tiergartenstrasse, with around 160 guests attending the event. It was not only figures from the world of finance and banking alongside friends and family who were invited



6 – 25 Wiener Strasse, before 1933 Dining room



7— Bronze-gilt medal commemorating the golden wedding anniversary of Charlotte and Gustav von Klemperer, 1925

to congratulate the couple; their domestic staff were also guests at the celebration.¹⁷ Victor took cine footage of some of the scenes at the festive event.¹⁸ The anniversary also featured in the press, with one newspaper commenting that 'the financier and co-founder of the Dresdner Bank, known far beyond the borders of Saxony, ... [celebrated] his golden wedding anniversary with his wife, Charlotte née Engelmann. The couple, who have rendered considerable service to the public good of Dresden, were the recipients of an extraordinarily great number of congratulations and demonstrations of sympathy from the very widest circles.'¹⁹ A gilt bronze medal was struck to commemorate the couple's anniversary (fig. 7).²⁰ In December 1926 Gustav von Klemperer died and was buried next to his mother, Henriette Klemperer, née Meyer (1818–1905), in the New Jewish Cemetery at Dresden. Following her husband's death Charlotte lived alone in the large villa on Wiener Strasse²¹ until 1933, when at the age of 75 she moved into an apartment on nearby Beethovenstrasse.²² Her Dresden daughters-in-law furnished the apartment with affectionate devotion, but – as recorded in Victor's memoirs – his mother did not have long to enjoy it, as she died in April 1934 following a painful illness.²³ Charlotte von Klemperer was laid to rest beside her husband.

When Charlotte moved out of 25 Wiener Strasse, it also marked a turning point in terms of how the villa was used. Having served as a residential dwelling until 1933, the villa was now leased by an authority or administrative office – the newly-established Geheimes Staatspolizeiamt (Gestapa; Secret State Police Office).²⁴ The property was still registered as owned by 'the heirs of von Klemperer'.²⁵ Given that the diffamation and marginalization of Jewish citizens increased steadily from 1933, the fact that of all institutions the Saxony Gestapa used the house in which the three sons of Gustav and Charlotte von Klemperer had grown up and where friends and business partners alike had received a warm welcome, is extremely disturbing.

The Saxony Gestapa, recorded in the Dresden directories as being at 25 Wiener Strasse up to and including 1938, was founded in 1933 during the reorganization of the police force and was subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior.²⁶ The Gestapa – later Geheime Staatspolizei (Gestapo) Staatspolizei-leitstelle Dresden – was based at 25 Wiener Strasse until it moved in 1937/38.²⁷

Subsequently the Reichsbauamt Dresden I (Reich Planning Inspectorate Dresden I) took up office in the Klemperer villa, moving in on 1 June 1938 according to Victor's records.²⁸ A small number of files from the Sächsisches Staatsarchiv – Hauptstaatsarchiv Dresden (State Archives of Saxony – Dresden Main State Archive) and the Bundesarchiv (German Federal Archives) provide information about the activities of the department of the Reichsbauamt Dresden I at 25 Wiener Strasse.²⁹ The Reichsbauamt Dresden I probably used the house until 1945.³⁰ One of these files contains a very detailed air raid protection plan dated 6 May 1939 which not only reveals the number of persons working there,³¹ but also that the janitor was living in the attic, that is, the additional mansard floor.³²

The offices of the Reichsbauamt Dresden I were on all floors of the house, including the attic, next door to the janitor's quarters. Files were stored in the basement, where there was also an office for the blueprint draughtsmen. This air raid protection plan also contained a brief description of the villa's structure. It says, for example, that from 'the cellars to the attic ... a winding staircase of sufficient breadth [leads] from the main entrance'; thus the people in the house could take the shortest route to the cellars, which were designated as air raid shelters. However, it also states that the premises were situated 'near various strategically important buildings that will be the frequent target of enemy air raids'.³³ Specific reference was made to the nearby central railway terminus and the tracks adjacent to Wiener Strasse.

The documents relating to the Reichsbauamt Dresden I still record the owners as the 'heirs of Gustav von Klemperer', and in the Dresden directories 'heirs of von Klemperer' are listed up to and including 1942. The property was administered by Erich Goslar, the general agent of Victor and Ralph Leopold von Klemperer. Herbert Otto was represented by the Berlin auditor Hans Weyer, who was in communication with Goslar.³⁴

A file in the Bundesarchiv and the estate records of Gustav von Klemperer document the individual stages in the expropriation of the von Klemperer family.³⁵ From April 1940 Dresden's Oberfinanzpräsident (head of revenue) had been attempting to purchase the villa at 25 Wiener Strasse leased by the Reichsbauamt Dresden I.³⁶ In June 1941, after the negotiations between the Oberfinanzpräsident and the chief agent of the von Klemperers were considered as finalized, a contract of sale was to be concluded in the near future.³⁷ However, the sale of the villa did not take place. In summer 1942 the Reich Minister of Finance informed the Dresden Oberfinanzpräsident that he was withdrawing the funds available for the purchase, for according to 'a note in the evidence concerning the further use of residual disbursements, the property at 25 Wienerstrasse in Dresden is sequestered and is expected to be forfeited to Reich ownership without payment'.³⁸ On the basis of the Eleventh Supplementary Decree on the Reich Citizenship Law (Reichsbürgergesetz) of 25 November 1941, all the assets of all three sons of Gustav von Klemperer who had been forced into exile had already been forfeited to the Reich, including the villa at 25 Wiener Strasse.³⁹ Accordingly, 'Das Deutsche Reich – Reichsfinanzverwaltung' (The German Reich – Reich Fiscal Authority) was the official sole owner of the property.⁴⁰ The process of expropriation had thus reached its conclusion. From 1943 the Dresden directories also listed 'Das Deutsche Reich – Reichsfinanzverwaltung' as the new owner, the administrator being given as 'Finanzamt Dresden – Kloostergasse' (Dresden Revenue Office on Kloostergasse).



8 – 25 Wiener Strasse, April 1952 Looking north-east



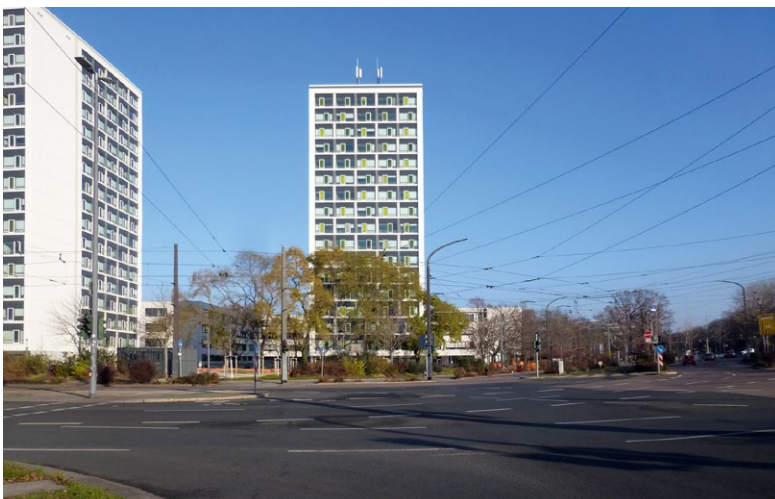
9 – 25 Wiener Strasse, April 1952 South-west façade



10 – 25 Wiener Strasse, corner of Wiener Strasse – Gellertstrasse, April 1952 Looking north-west

Now barely a trace of the von Klemperer family was left in Wiener Strasse. Only the splendid house, used by National Socialist institutions from 1933, still stood in its place. But even this memento was to be erased in the bombardments of the Second World War. In the Dresden municipal maps recording the damage that the city suffered in the air raids of 1944/45⁴¹ the villa is marked as 'completely damaged'. In April 1952 the ruins of the Wiener Strasse villa formerly owned by Gustav and Charlotte von Klemperer were still standing (figs. 8–10). From the second half of the 1940s the City of Dresden and the State of Saxony set about clearing the rubble from all war-damaged properties. Among these, however, were municipal-owned assets as well as sites that had once been designated as Reich or National Socialist assets. They therefore included those properties that had been forfeited to the assets of the German Reich through expropriation of Jewish owners by the National Socialist state.⁴² The house on Wiener Strasse is also mentioned in a 'Schedule of Completely Destroyed Properties (100%)' drawn up by the municipal asset management department.⁴³ On 1 April 1951 the fiduciary administration of those premises that had once belonged to Jewish owners passed to the direct administration of the State of Saxony.⁴⁴

The ruins of the von Klemperers' villa seem to have been demolished between 1952 and 1957 and the site cleared of rubble, for from the late 1950s it was used for laying a curved section of tram track on the corner of Wiener Strasse and Gellertstrasse as part of scheduled re-routing.⁴⁵ With this, the last vestiges of the life of the von Klemperer family at this location in Dresden were obliterated (fig. 11).



11 – Track curve at corner of Wiener Strasse – Gellertstrasse, 2020 Looking north



12 – 64 Tiergartenstrasse, entrance façade, May 1962 Looking west



13 – Residential housing block, entrance of 66 Tiergartenstrasse (formerly site of 64 Tiergartenstrasse), 2020 Looking west

64 Tiergartenstrasse

Victor and Sophie von Klemperer

The villa owned by Victor and Sophie von Klemperer at number 64 on Tiergartenstrasse (fig. 14) suffered the same fate as the house at 25 Wiener Strasse – it was also destroyed in the Second World War. As photographs from the Stadtarchiv Dresden record, its ruins were still standing in May 1962 (fig. 12). In the municipal schedule of damage suffered by the city in the air raids of 1944/45⁴⁶ the villa is marked as 'severely damaged', as are the garages (fig. 17) that Victor had had erected on the plot of land adjoining the property (fig. 16) to the south which faced Wiener Strasse.⁴⁷ In a file pertaining to Dresden municipal assets there is a note from 1946 recording that the villa at 64 Tiergartenstrasse was 'bombed out',⁴⁸ and it also appears in the 'Schedule of Completely Destroyed Properties (100 %)' drawn up by the municipal asset management department.⁴⁹ The villa also belonged to the above-mentioned category of properties that had once been Reich assets,⁵⁰ the administration of which was to pass to the direct administration of the State of Saxony in the spring of 1951.⁵¹

In the late 1960s a housing block with three entrances (66, 68 and 68a Tiergartenstrasse) was erected on the site of the former villa and its grounds, and on the plot adjoining it to the east (fig. 13).⁵² Work on construction began in 1967.⁵³ Today there is no trace left of the once so splendid villa with its park-like grounds, no trace of Victor and Sophie von Klemperer or any of their four children Sophie Charlotte (1909–2004), Peter Ralph (1910–2000), Gustav Victor (1915–1997) and Dorothea Elisabeth (1918–1977).



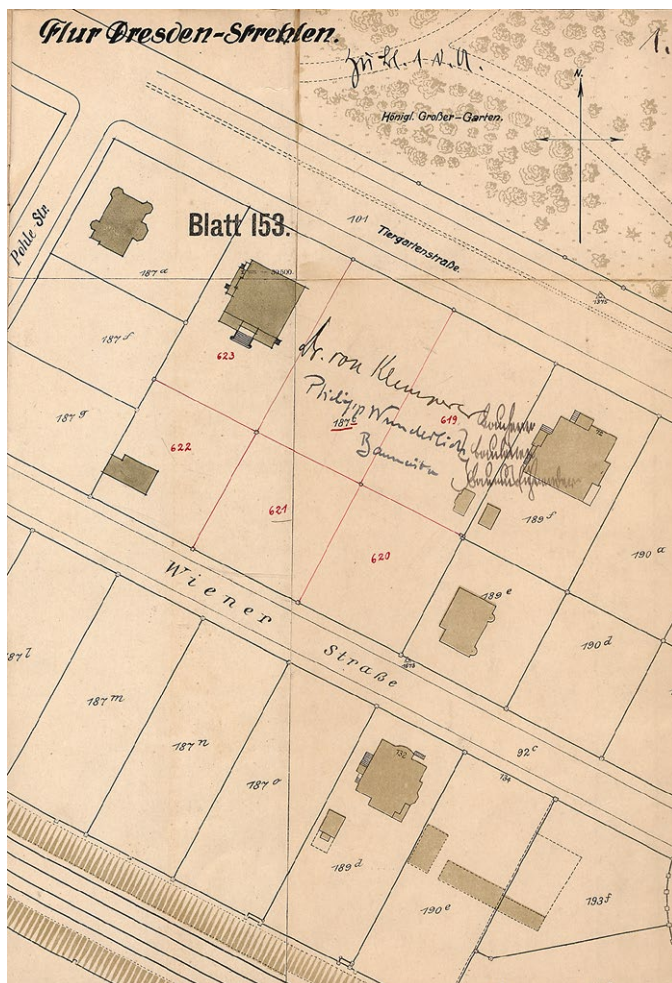
14 – 64 Tiergartenstrasse, entrance façade, before April 1938 Looking west



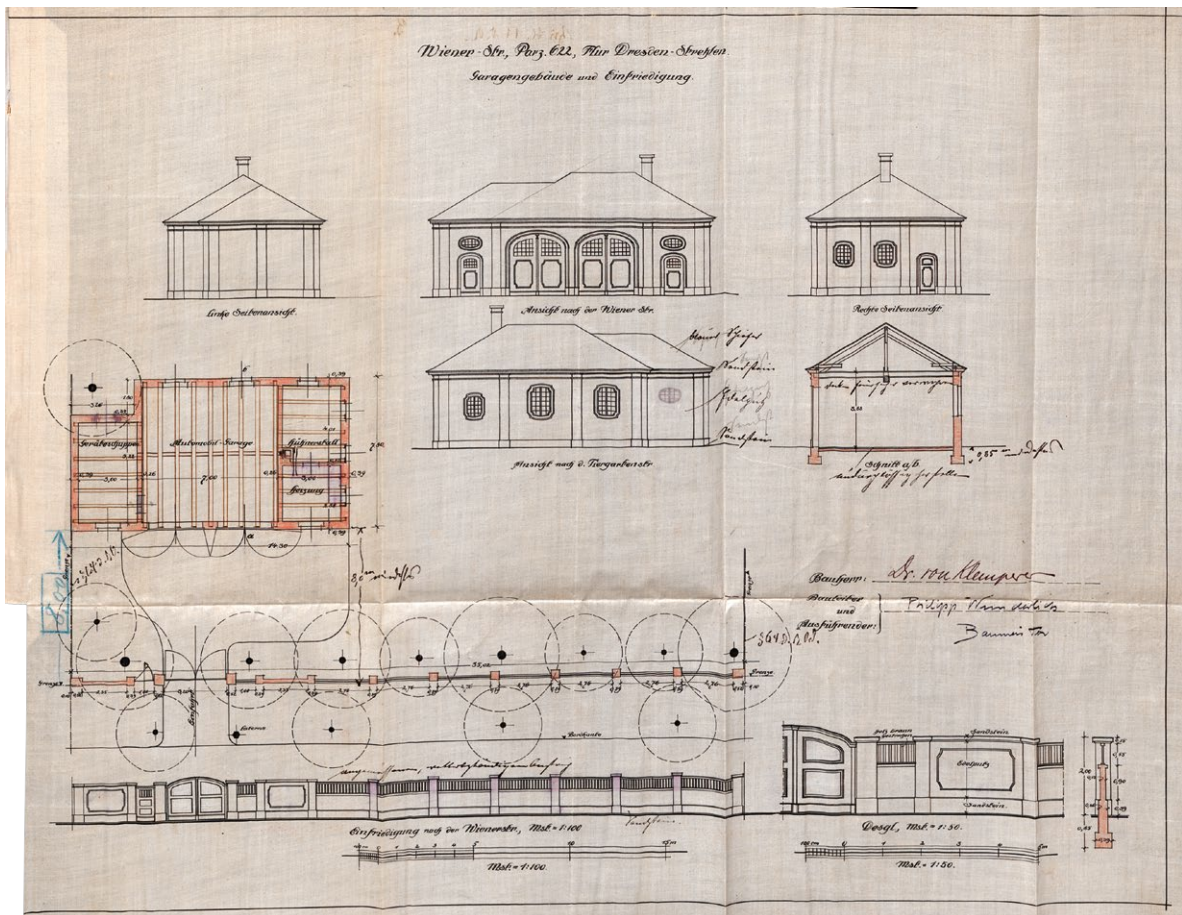
15—64 Tiergartenstrasse, from the garden, before April 1938
Looking north-east

In 1913 Victor and Sophie – at this point parents of two children and still living in Leipzig – commissioned a house for themselves in Dresden. On the plot of land on Tiergartenstrasse, immediately adjoining the Grosser Garten, a villa was built to designs by Gerhard Wunderlich, son of master builder Philipp Wunderlich (figs. 14–16). During the autumn of 1913, when the construction project – carried out by Philipp Wunderlich’s company – was already in full swing, Victor and Sophie travelled frequently

from Leipzig to Dresden in order to follow the building’s progress.⁵⁴ Despite being obliged to rent interim accommodation in Dresden at the turn of the year in 1913/14, they were able to move into their own house by May 1914.⁵⁵ The spacious villa was erected to an almost square ground plan and had a façade of pure sandstone.⁵⁶ While the entrance façade to the north-east parallel to Tiergartenstrasse and the adjoining south-east front were designed on rather stricter neoclassical principles with only isolated neo-Baroque elements (fig. 14), the south-west garden façade was far freer in its design (fig. 15). A wide flight of stairs led up from the garden, flanked by a terrace and a balcony on the first floor on the one side, and on the other a living room that projected from the main body of the building on the ground floor and a loggia on the upper floor. It was adjoined by park-like gardens

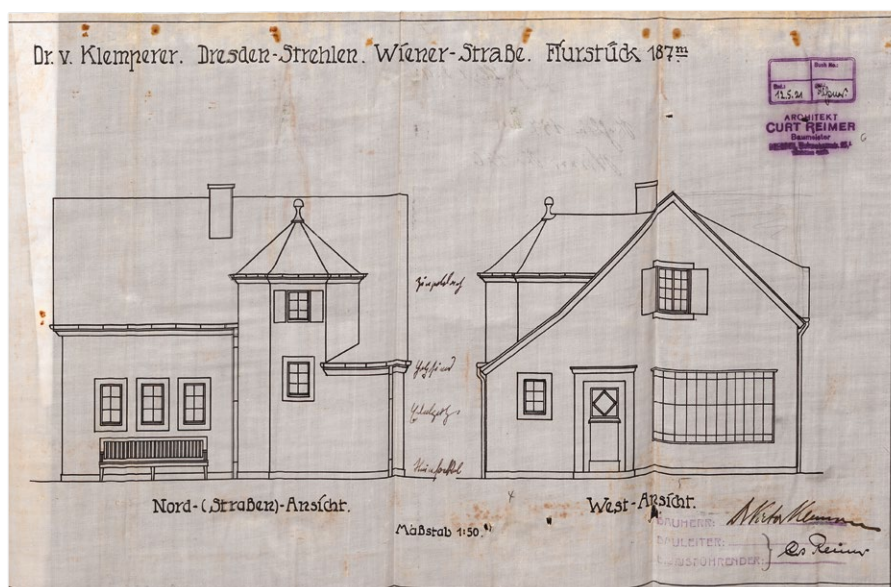


16—Cadastral map, 1913



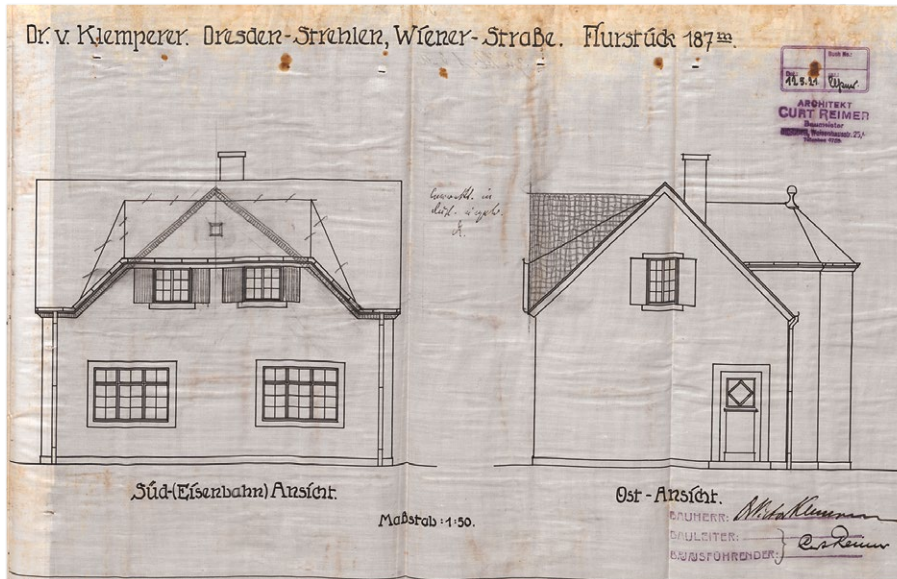
17 – Plot no. 622, construction plans for the garage, 1913

which extended to the parallel Wiener Strasse (fig. 16).⁵⁷ At the same time as the house was under construction, Victor had a garage built which also contained a small hen house on the plot of land facing Wiener Strasse (fig. 17).⁵⁸ Concerning the enclosure of the latter plot of land, Victor submitted a request to the building control authority to be allowed to erect a wooden fence for the time being rather than a solid structure, as he was intending to acquire the neighbouring plot to add to the garden. He would subsequently erect a solid enclosure around both plots.⁵⁹ Victor duly extended his



18 – 126 Wiener Strasse, dwelling elevations, 1921

property through the purchase of two further plots of land⁶⁰ adjoining the garage site on Wiener Strasse. In the 1930s Victor was evidently forced to sell these; on both sites the new owners built dwellings which – albeit partly with extensive structural alterations – still stand today at Wiener Strasse 105 and 107.⁶¹

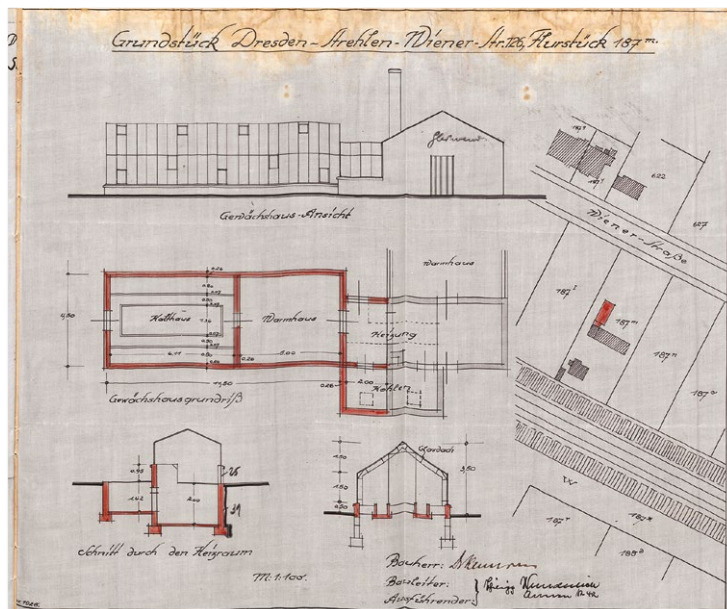


19 – 126 Wiener Strasse,
dwelling elevations, 1921



20 – 126 Wiener Strasse,
2020 Looking west

In addition to this area between Tiergartenstrasse and Wiener Strasse, Victor also acquired three further plots of land in the immediate vicinity which lay, however, on the side of Wiener Strasse facing the railway tracks (fig. 16).⁶² On one of these plots – 126 Wiener Strasse – he had a small dwelling (figs. 18–20) built in 1921 followed by a glasshouse (fig. 21) in 1926, which underwent extension two years later.⁶³ In his memoirs Victor recorded that they had a little ‘luxury nursery garden’, in which they ‘[grew] flowers and vegetables for our household and ... [derived] great pleasure from it’. He noted that it had become – at the time of writing in 1938 – a commercial nursery garden that at the very least paid for itself.⁶⁴ The small dwelling (fig. 20), occupied intermittently by the nurseryman Heinrich Knoblich,⁶⁵ survived the Second World War. Although it has undergone a number of structural alterations, the basic shape of the house is still recognizable. The two neighbouring plots – Victor was evidently also forced to sell these – had dwellings built on them by the new owners in the second half of the 1930s.⁶⁶



21–126 Wiener Strasse,
construction plans for the glass-
house extension, 1928

Despite the fact that Victor von Klemperer owned and administered the last-named properties, it was the villa at 64 Tiergartenstrasse that was the heart of family life. Both his brother Ralph Leopold, who had moved from Vienna to Dresden after the First World War and now lived with his family close by at 86 Wiener Strasse, and their parents were frequent and welcome visitors at the Tiergartenstrasse villa.

Victor wrote enthusiastically about the house, describing it as ‘inexpressibly beautiful and practical’.⁶⁷ His younger son Gustav Victor left a description of the villa later on in his memoirs.⁶⁸ While the ground plans have not survived,⁶⁹ the extant photographs of the interiors give an idea of its spacious design, especially in regard to the ground floor. Adjoining the central entrance hall with staircase (figs. 25, 26) and facing south-east were the study (figs. 22, 23) and the elegant salon (fig. 24), together taking up nearly half of the ground floor. From the salon one could access the terrace and the steps down into the garden (fig. 15). In the small adjoining south-west-facing room – which the family called the ‘Round Salon’ on account of its rounded-off corners (figs. 27, 28)⁷⁰ – the three room-high double wing French windows also gave onto the garden.



22 – 64 Tiergartenstrasse, before April 1938
Study, looking north-east



23 – 64 Tiergartenstrasse, before April 1938
View from the study to the salon, looking
southwest



24 – 64 Tiergartenstrasse, before April 1938
The salon, looking east



26 – 64 Tiergartenstrasse, entrance hall, before April 1938
Looking south-east



25 – 64 Tiergartenstrasse, stairs, before April 1938
Looking south-west



27 – 64 Tiergartenstrasse, Round Salon,
before April 1938 Looking north

A singularly spacious dining room – which according to Gustav Victor's memoirs was able to seat around thirty-six guests – occupied the north-west part of the ground floor.⁷¹ Access to the kitchen was via an adjoining passage in which the everyday china and glass were kept.⁷² A separate service entrance on the north-west side of the villa gave access to the basement flat and the kitchen wing.⁷³ On the first floor lay the bedrooms, children's rooms and a room for the governess, while the second floor contained another children's room as well as various work and utility rooms for the family's domestic staff.⁷⁴

Victor lived with his family in this spacious house from 1914. In the spring of 1938 he left Germany together with his wife to find seek safe refuge abroad. In November 1938 the villa was sequestered by the Gestapo. The art objects and other contents were 'secured' (i.e., seized), and the precious porcelain collection built up by Gustav von Klemperer was transferred to the Johanneum in December 1938.⁷⁵



28 – 64 Tiergartenstrasse, Round Salon, before April 1938
Looking west towards the steps down to the garden

In November 1941 all assets owned by the von Klemperers were forfeited to the German Reich in accordance with the Eleventh Supplementary Decree on the Reich Citizenship Law, including the house at 64 Tiergartenstrasse. As in the case of 25 Wiener Strasse, from 1943 'Das Deutsche Reich – Reichsfinanzverwaltung' appears as the new owner in the Dresden directories.⁷⁶

It has not been possible to determine conclusively whether the house was used by public institutions or authorities during the 1940s,⁷⁷ but by 1943 one Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Schaar is documented as occupying the second floor of the villa.⁷⁸ Schaar was judge advocate to the Luftwaffe and was active for various authorities during his career: at the Luftwaffengericht III (Luftwaffe Military Court III) in Dresden, at the Luftwaffengericht in Nuremberg and at the Feldgericht des Kommandeurs der 14. Flak-division (Military Court of the Commander of the 14th Anti-Aircraft Division). Probably at the end of February 1943 Schaar was to be transferred as judge

advocate to the Military Court of the Commanding General and Supreme Commander of Air District III in Berlin. It is therefore doubtful whether he actually lived for any length of time in the villa on Tiergartenstrasse.⁷⁹ According to present knowledge no further tenants are known.

By the time the Tiergartenstrasse villa was destroyed by bombs in the Second World War, Victor, who had spent happy years there with his wife Sophie and their four children, was no longer alive, having died in Southern Rhodesia in March 1943.

86 Wiener Strasse

Ralph Leopold and Lili von Klemperer

Whereas the villas at 64 Tiergartenstrasse and 25 Wiener Strasse were destroyed during the Second World War, the house at 86 Wiener Strasse,⁸⁰ owned by Ralph Leopold, who lived there with his family, survived (figs. 29–31).⁸¹ In the 2010s, Michaela Howse, great-granddaughter of Ralph Leopold and Lili, visited the house at 86 Wiener Strasse in which her grandmother Ida Charlotte (1919–2015) had grown up, and recorded its appearance.⁸² Shortly after the end of the First World War, Ralph Leopold and his wife Lili had moved from Vienna to Dresden⁸³ and bought the house on Wiener Strasse.⁸⁴ He thus lived very close to his parents and his brother Victor.



29 – 86 Wiener Strasse, street façade, 2012
Looking south



30 – 86 Wiener Strasse, 2020
Looking west



31 – 86 Wiener Strasse, garden façade, 2020
Looking north-east

Built in 1912 in neoclassical style, the villa is today one of Dresden's listed buildings of historical interest.⁸⁵ If one compares historical photographs (figs. 32, 33) with the present state of the villa it can be seen that the terrace, which also forms the main entrance to the house, was once different. The double-arched portal visible on the old photographs has been replaced by a cuboid structure with a large door giving access to the house, which has been divided into a number of separate apartments. Likewise, the grounds no longer resemble the spacious gardens with numerous trees in which Ralph Leopold and Lili's children Hubert Ralph (1914–1999), Friedrich Oskar (1917–2010), Ida Charlotte, and Marie (1923–2012) once played as they grew up. Evidently the original ground plan of this villa was also not preserved, but a number of extant photographs give an at least slight impression of the interiors of the house and their precious furnishings and art objects (figs. 34–37).⁸⁶ Ralph Leopold lived in this spacious house with his family from 1920 to 1937. He left Germany with Lili and their children, who were then still living at home, and attempted to establish himself in South Africa. Although he is still listed as the owner of the house in the Dresden directory for 1938,⁸⁷ the factory-owner Dr [Gottlob] Paul Voigt is given as the new occupier. Evidently this tenant soon acquired the villa, for he is listed as the owner of 86 Wiener Strasse from 1939.⁸⁸ The villa survived not only the



32 – 86 Wiener Strasse, garden façade, before June 1937
Looking north-east



33 – 86 Wiener Strasse, terrace with entrance, before June 1937
Looking north-east



34 – 86 Wiener Strasse, before June 1937
Small dining room



35 – 86 Wiener Strasse, before June 1937
Salon

Second World War but also the following decades during which alterations were made to the interior.⁸⁹ In the 1990s the villa was in urgent need of thorough renovation, but its outer appearance had been preserved without any far-reaching changes (fig. 38).⁹⁰

In addition to the villa and its grounds Ralph Leopold owned another property that formerly consisted of two plots of land and was linked with 86 Wiener Strasse by a narrow strip of garden at the rear which lay directly on the railway embankment. The original outline of this piece of land can still be made out on the present cadastral map.⁹¹ Both plots together formed the property listed as 80 Wiener Strasse (corner of Wiener Strasse and Franz-Liszt-Strasse),⁹² but in the 1920s only the plot on the embankment was built on, in this case with a small dwelling.⁹³

After the family was forced to emigrate in 1937, Ralph Leopold's general agent Erich Goslar initially assumed the administration of this property in 1938. But, as in the case of 25 Wiener Strasse and 64 Tiergartenstrasse, the proprietary rights would be forfeited to the German Reich in November 1941 in accordance with the Eleventh Supplementary Decree on the Reichsbürgergesetz.⁹⁴ Another parallel became apparent for this property after the Second World War; post war, 80 Wiener Strasse fell into the category of properties belonging to former assets of the Reich/National Socialist State following their expropriation during the 1940s.⁹⁵ However, in contrast to the two other villa properties – that is,



36 – 86 Wiener Strasse, before June 1937
Salon



37 – 86 Wiener Strasse, before June 1937



38 – 86 Wiener Strasse, street façade, 1992 Looking south

25 Wiener Strasse and 64 Tiergartenstrasse – 80 Wiener Strasse was not classified as a ruined property that had to be cleared of rubble but was simply declared to be building land.⁹⁶ This probably happened because the greater part of the site had no buildings on it, apart from the small dwelling on the plot facing the railway embankment, which had evidently survived the war undamaged.⁹⁷ Today this site on the corner of Wiener Strasse and Franz-Liszt-Strasse contains a complex consisting of three houses with commercial premises.

Nonetheless, with the villa at 86 Wiener Strasse (figs. 29–31, 38) there is one place that contains at least traces of the life of the family of Ralph Leopold von Klemperer. By contrast it is harder to imagine the lives of those members of the von Klemperer family who lived at 25 Wiener Strasse and 64 Tiergartenstrasse, as these houses were destroyed in the Second World War, and the subsequent decades have completely transformed the sites on which these villas once stood (figs. 11, 13). One can only hope that, together with the many photographs of the houses, which have been primarily supplied by the von Klemperer family and the Stadtarchiv Dresden, this research project can make a small contribution to commemorating the places in Dresden that were once the centre of the von Klemperer family's lives.⁹⁸

Notes

- 1 This and the subsequent fates of individual family members are described in Victor von Klemperer's memoirs, which he began in Margate (South Africa) in June 1938; cf. Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), on this see pp. 1–2, 55–64. Victor von Klemperer's memoirs can be accessed online at: https://links.cjh.org/primo/lbi/CJH_ALEPH000201034 (last retrieved on 6/1/2021). It should be noted that in the database of the Leo Baeck Institute the Romance philologist and literary scholar Victor Klemperer (1881–1960) is erroneously given as the author of these memoirs; hereafter: Leo Baeck Institute, Memoir Collection (ME 559).
- 2 Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), p. 1.
- 3 See *ibid.*, pp. 56–57. The persecution of the von Klemperer family and expropriation of their property by the National Socialist state is treated in detail by the lawyer Sabine Rudolph in her essay; see <https://doi.org/10.11588/artdok.00007287>.
- 4 To go into all the real estate and properties owned by the family in Dresden would go beyond the scope of this essay. Information relating to the real estate and properties owned by Gustav von Klemperer in Dresden can be found among other places in his estate records; see Sächsisches Staatsarchiv, Hauptstaatsarchiv Dresden (SächsStA-D), 11045 Amtsgericht Dresden, I. 4808 (estate records of Gustav von Klemperer), on this *inter alia* fols. 18–19, notary public Dr Friedrich Salzburger/Victor von Klemperer (*re* executorship), 6/7/1927. For example, Gustav von Klemperer also owned a house at 2 Tiergartenstrasse, which passed to his heirs after his death. In the Dresden directories, 'v. Klemperers Erben' ('heirs of v. Klemperer') were listed as the owners up to and including 1937.
- 5 Andreas Graul gives a detailed account of the bankers Gustav and Victor von Klemperer in his essay; see <https://doi.org/10.11588/artdok.00007288>.
- 6 In the Dresden directories the Klemperer family appear as tenants at 25 Winckelmannstrasse (ground floor) from 1886 to 1890. Before that they lived at 11 Strehleener Strasse.
- 7 See Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), p. 10.
- 8 On the evidence of the Dresden directories, it is very likely that Platen-Hallermund owned the parcel of land jointly with a relative of his (Georg Hans Julius [of the the Kaden estate in Holstein]). Dieter Brosius: 'Platen, Adolf Graf von', in *Neue Deutsche Biographie* 20 (2001), p. 511, accessible online at: <https://www.deutsche-biographie.de/pnd11620639X.html#ndbcontent> (last retrieved on 7/1/2021).
- 9 Such directories are important sources for research on the history of the city, for identifying individuals' places of residence and tracing moves and changes of ownership, etc. However, a keen eye should be kept on their validity as a source; in some cases there was a delay in the appearance of changes of domicile and ownership until the next editions were published in the following years. Data from directories should thus – where possible – be verified or falsified on the basis of other sources. The Dresden directories are accessible online at: <https://adressbuecher.sachsendigital.de/startseite/>.
- 10 During the 19th and 20th century the houses in many of the city's streets including Wiener Strasse were renumbered. In the case of the above-mentioned villa acquired by Gustav von Klemperer, it meant that the house bore the number 20 up to 1892, number 41 from 1893 to 1902, and number 25 from 1903. The so-called *Ortslistennummern* (numbers identifying individual properties, originally for fire insurance purposes), also recorded in the Dresden directories and which endured – irrespective of the renumbering – provide a cross-reference.
- 11 See Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), p. 10.
- 12 According to present knowledge, the structural state of the villa around the turn of the century is recorded only in a photographic postcard. The photograph itself seems to be undated, but the postcard was written in 1904. The photograph shows the house before the addition of the mansard floor; see <https://altesdresden.de/> (last retrieved on 7/1/2021). A total of four postcards are recorded on this website under the heading 'Wiener Straße 25'; these are dated 1904, 1912, 1914, and 1927. However, the postcard dated 1914 cannot have been produced until later, since the villa's additional floor – as seen on this postcard – was not added until a later date. My thanks are due to Jörg Brune, who has made an important contribution to research into the history of Dresden with his website <https://altesdresden.de/> and the information and images that can be accessed there.
- 13 In his memoirs Victor talks about his move from Leipzig to Dresden in December 1913. The villa on Tiergartenstrasse that he had commissioned was not yet ready to move into, with the result that the family had to seek interim accommodation in Dresden, as Victor and his wife were unable 'to live [temporarily] with the children at my parents' – the second floor at 25 Wienerstrasse was not added until the inflation years'; Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), p. 40. No building control authority documents (call number 2.3.15) relating to 25 Wiener Strasse (formerly 20 Wiener Strasse, subsequently 41 Wiener Strasse; see n. 10) have been preserved in the Stadtarchiv Dresden (Dresden Municipal Archives).

- 14 According to the Dresden directories, the basement and certain rooms on the top floor were rented out periodically.
- 15 Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), p. 37.
- 16 See *ibid.*, pp. 37, 50. The second son Herbert Otto was on the board of Berliner Maschinenbau AG and for a period its chairman. As photographs record, on festive occasions Herbert Otto would happily travel to Dresden with his family to visit his parents and siblings.
- 17 See *ibid.*, p. 52.
- 18 The von Klemperer kindly family placed this short film at the disposal of the project entitled 'Reconstruction of the Porcelain Collection of the Dresden Banker Gustav von Klemperer' supported by the Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste/German Lost Art Foundation.
- 19 *Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten*, 26/7/1925, p. 4.
- 20 An example of this medal was offered for sale at a Leipzig auction house in October 2015; see Leipziger Münzhandlung und Auktion Heidrun Höhn e. K., Auctions 83 and 84, Geldscheine und Universal, 22–24/10/2015, lot 2330. The auction catalogue is accessible at: <https://www.muenzen-leipzig.de/Auktion/KatalogArchiv?intAuktion-sld=263&los=1065832> (last retrieved on 12/1/2021). My cordial thanks are due to Leipziger Münzhandlung und Auktion Heidrun Höhn e.K. herzlich for their support and permission to reproduce images. An example of the medal has been preserved in the Coin Cabinet of the Dresden State Art Collections (inv. no. 1964/542).
- 21 According to the Dresden directories the depot master Alfred Martin lived on the mansard floor as a tenant from 1920 to 1933. It is not known whether any of the von Klemperers' staff were still living in the house at this time.
- 22 In 1934 Charlotte von Klemperer appears in the Dresden directories as a tenant on the first floor of the house at 7 Beethovenstrasse. See also Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), p. 54.
- 23 See *ibid.*, p. 54.
- 24 Victor also mentions briefly in his memoirs that the 'Gestapo' had its offices at the house from 1933; see Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), p. 10. However, the Geheime Staatspolizeiamt (Gestapa) is not listed at this address in the Dresden directories until 1934. On the establishment and activities of the Gestapa in Saxony see Marcus Gryglewski, 'Zur Geschichte der nationalsozialistischen Judenverfolgung in Dresden 1933–1945' in *Die Erinnerung hat ein Gesicht*, eds. Norbert Haase, Stefi Jersch-Wenzel and Hermann Simon and revised by Marcus Gryglewski (= Schriftenreihe der Stiftung Sächsische Gedenkstätten, 4; Leipzig, 1998), pp. 87–150, on this pp. 103–104. Gryglewski's article is accessible online at: <https://en.stsg.de/cms/sites/default/files/u5/ZURGES~1.PDF> (last retrieved on 15/1/2021).
- 25 After the death of Gustav von Klemperer (27 December 1926), starting with the 1927/28 edition, his heirs were given as the owners of the villa at 25 Wiener Strasse up to and including 1942 in the Dresden directories. The basement was occupied by a driver/chauffeur, Richard Rothe, in 1934/35, while one Richard Burkmann, an operating engineer on the state railways, is recorded as living on the first floor, albeit for a single year, in 1935. The ground floor housed the offices of the Saxony Gestapa. With the exception of the Gestapa, from 1936 no further tenants are recorded in the directories.
- 26 On its establishment see *Sächsisches Verwaltungsblatt*, 1933, no. 57 (published on 7/7/1933), p. 467, no. 419 ('Errichtung eines Geheimen Staatspolizeiamtes', 5/7/1933). On the complete reorganization of the police force see *Sächsisches Gesetzblatt*, 1933, no. 30 (published on 19/8/1933), pp. 121–129, no. 111 ('Ausführungsverordnung zum Gesetz über Änderungen im Polizeiwesen', 9/8/1933), on this pp. 121–122, 127–128.
- 27 No Gestapa/Gestapo records from the Wiener Strasse period have been preserved in the Sächsisches Staatsarchiv. I thank Ragna Petrak, Sächsisches Staatsarchiv, Hauptstaatsarchiv Dresden, for her support. However, a certain amount of correspondence and, for example, the financial reports of the Geheimen Staatspolizeiamt Sachsen (1934–1936), which the Ministry of the Interior passed on to the Ministry of the Economy, have been preserved in a number of files; see SächsStA-D, 10736 Ministerium des Innern, 11188 a, and 11168 Ministerium für Wirtschaft, 2955. From 1937 the Gestapo seems to have been housed at 16/18 Bismarckstrasse, in a hotel that had been converted into an administrative building; see Marcus Gryglewski, 'Zur Geschichte der nationalsozialistischen Judenverfolgung in Dresden 1933–1945', in *Die Erinnerung hat ein Gesicht*, eds. Norbert Haase, Stefi Jersch-Wenzel and Hermann Simon and revised by Marcus Gryglewski (= Schriftenreihe der Stiftung Sächsische Gedenkstätten, 4; Leipzig, 1998), pp. 87–150, on this p. 103. Victor von Klemperer writes that the Gestapo used 25 Wiener Strasse until the end of May 1938; see Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), p. 10.
- 28 Victor speaks of the 'Bauamt des Reichsfinanzministeriums' ('Building Control Authority of the Reich Ministry of Finance'), that is, the senior authority; see Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), p. 10. In the Dresden directories the Reichsbauamt Dresden I does not appear until 1941; on the value as a source of these

directories see n. 9. The headquarters of the Reichsbauamt Dresden was on Devrientstrasse. On the history and remit of the Reichsbauamt Dresden see the relevant descriptions in the overview (SächsStA-D, 11216 Reichsbauamt Dresden). This records among other details that the Reichsbauamt was subordinate to the Reich Ministry of Finance, of which the Reichsbauämter were subordinate offices.

- 29 See SächsStA-D, 11216 Reichsbauamt Dresden, 071 (unpaginated) and 168 (unpaginated) and Bundesarchiv (BArch), R 2 (Reichsfinanzministerium)/25674. That the Reichsbauamt was to be accommodated here had been decided by the beginning of March 1938; see BArch, R 2 (Reichsfinanzministerium)/25674, Bl. 1r/v, Oberfinanzpräsident of Dresden to the Reich Minister of Finance, 9/3/1938.
- 30 Surviving correspondence attests that the Reichsbauamt Dresden I was still definitely housed here in March 1944; see SächsStA-D, 11216 Reichsbauamt Dresden, 168 (unpaginated), Finanzamt Dresden (Dresden Revenue Office) to Reichsbauamt Dresden I, 1/3/1944.
- 31 See SächsStA-D, 11216 Reichsbauamt Dresden, 071 (unpaginated), air raid protection plan of 6/5/1939. Master builder Johannes Funke had attended training as *Betriebsluftschutzleiter* (in-house air raid warden) in March 1939 and as the deputy of *Betriebsluftschutzleiter* Kurt Winkler was now responsible for the air raid protection plan for the villa.
- 32 See SächsStA-D, 11216 Reichsbauamt Dresden, 071 (unpaginated), air raid protection plan of 6/5/1939. The Dresden directories also reveal that a number of rooms must have been rented out; a joiner's assistant (Herbert Güldner) and from 1940 a tram driver (Georg Güldner) were officially registered as living there.
- 33 See SächsStA-D, 11216 Reichsbauamt Dresden, 071 (unpaginated), air raid protection plan of 6/5/1939.
- 34 See BArch, R 2 (Reichsfinanzministerium)/25674, Bl. 18r/v, Erich Goslar to Oberfinanzpräsident of Dresden, 21/6/1941; SächsStA-D, 11045 Amtsgericht Dresden, I. 4808 (estate record of Gustav von Klemperer), fol. 6, Hans Weyer to Dresden District Court, 25/9/1941.
- 35 On this see BArch, R 2 (Reichsfinanzministerium)/25674, and SächsStA-D, 11045 Amtsgericht Dresden, I. 4808 (estate record of Gustav von Klemperer).
- 36 See BArch, R 2 (Reichsfinanzministerium)/25674, fol. 3r/v, Oberfinanzpräsident of Dresden to Reich Minister of Finance, 24/4/1940.
- 37 See BArch, R 2 (Reichsfinanzministerium)/25674, fol. 17r/v, Oberfinanzpräsident of Dresden to Reich Minister of Finance, 26.6.1941. In this letter the Oberfinanzpräsident requested the necessary funds for the purchase of the villa from the Reich Ministry of Finance which were duly placed at his disposal in July 1941; see *ibid.*, fol. 19r/v. Erich Goslar also regarded the sale of the property as finalized in October 1941; see SächsStA-D, 11045 Amtsgericht Dresden, I. 4808 (estate record of Gustav von Klemperer), fol. 8r/v, Erich Goslar to Dresden District Court, 4/10/1941.
- 38 BArch, R 2 (Reichsfinanzministerium)/25674, fol. 20, Reich Minister of Finance to Oberfinanzpräsident of Dresden, 3/7/1942.
- 39 See BArch, R 2 (Reichsfinanzministerium)/25674, fol. 21r/v, and fol. 22, Oberfinanzpräsident of Dresden to Reich Minister of Finance, 2/9/1942 and 7/7/1943.
- 40 See BArch, R 2 (Reichsfinanzministerium)/25674, fol. 22, Oberfinanzpräsident of Dresden to Reich Minister of Finance, 7/7/1943.
- 41 See Stadtarchiv Dresden, 4.1.9 Stadtbauamt, map of war damage sustained in Dresden, revised 1945/1946, accessible online at: http://www.deutschefotothek.de/documents/obj/70400171/dd_stad_0000005 (last retrieved on 18/1/2021).
- 42 The records of the Liegenschafts- und Vermögensverwaltung (property and assets management) (holding call number 2.03) in the Dresden municipal archives contain information relating to the fiduciary administration of properties among other matters. On the issues examined above see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.03.3 Verwaltung von städtischem, Reichs-, NS- u. a. Vermögen.
- 43 See Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.03.3 Verwaltung von städtischem, Reichs-, NS- u. a. Vermögen, no. 210, fol. 3, Finanzamt Dresden (Abteilung Vermögensverwaltung) to Land Sachsen, Ministerium der Finanzen (Hauptabteilung Finanzen, Abteilung Haushalt – Vermögens- und Schuldenverwaltung), 25/10/1950. This letter dealing with the fiduciary administration of properties of formerly confiscated or forfeited assets, had various annexes appended; on 25 Wiener Strasse see *ibid.*, fol. 6 (corresponding to Annex 3).
- 44 See Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.03.3 Verwaltung von städtischem, Reichs-, NS- u. a. Vermögen, no. 210, fol. 11, Land Sachsen, Ministerium der Finanzen (Hauptabteilung Finanzen, Abteilung Haushalt – Vermögens- und Schuldenverwaltung) to Land Sachsen, Vermögensverwaltung (Außenstelle Dresden), 24/3/1951; see *ibid.*, fol. 15, Land

Sachsen, Ministerium der Finanzen (Hauptabteilung Finanzen, Abteilung Haushalt – Vermögens- und Schuldenverwaltung) to Land Sachsen, Vermögensverwaltung (Außenstelle Dresden), 19/4/1951.

- 45 On the construction project see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 10 Bau- und Grundstücksakten, no. 69491.
- 46 See Stadtarchiv Dresden, 4.1.9 Stadtbauamt, map of war damage sustained in Dresden, drawn up in 1945/1946, accessible online at: http://www.deutschefotothek.de/documents/obj/70400171/dd_stad_0000004 (last retrieved on 18/1/2021).
- 47 This plot corresponds to parcel number 622 (fig. 16). In the following the parcel numbers valid at the time are always used. A current cadastral map can be accessed online at: <https://geoportal.sachsen.de/> (last retrieved on 18/1/2021). The later owner of this plot was the Bezirksbehörde der Deutschen Volkspolizei (area authority of the German People's Police). This is evident from a site map dating from the late 1960s; see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 10 Bau- und Grundstücksakten, no. 57027 (unpaginated).
- 48 See Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.03.3 Verwaltung von städtischem, Reichs-, NS- u. a. Vermögen, no. 201, fols. 4–8, Haushaltamt der Stadt Dresden (Abteilung Vermögensverwaltung), 'Verzeichnis der von der Vermögensverwaltung übernommenen Grundstücke', 16/8/1946 (fol. 7 relating to 64 Tiergartenstrasse, under 'V. Wohngrundstücke', serial no. 48).
- 49 See Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.03.3 Verwaltung von städtischem, Reichs-, NS- u. a. Vermögen, no. 210, fol. 3, Finanzamt Dresden (Abteilung Vermögensverwaltung) to Land Sachsen, Ministerium der Finanzen (Hauptabteilung Finanzen, Abteilung Haushalt – Vermögens- und Schuldenverwaltung), 25/10/1950. Dealing with the fiduciary administration of properties of formerly confiscated or forfeited assets, this letter had various annexes appended; on 64 Tiergartenstrasse see *ibid.*, fol. 6 (corresponding to Annex 3).
- 50 See n. 42.
- 51 See Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.03.3 Verwaltung von städtischem, Reichs-, NS- u. a. Vermögen, no. 210, fol. 11, Land Sachsen, Ministerium der Finanzen (Hauptabteilung Finanzen, Abteilung Haushalt – Vermögens- und Schuldenverwaltung) to Land Sachsen, Vermögensverwaltung (Außenstelle Dresden), 24/3/1951. According to this document, the administration of 64 Tiergartenstrasse lay in the hands of 'Wolf & Otto'; see *ibid.*, fol. 14, 'Aufstellung der Grundstücke, bei denen am 1. April 1951 die privaten Verwalter abgelöst wurden', 10/4/1951. Several letters of enquiry sent to 'Wolf & Otto' went unanswered; see *inter alia* fol. 30, Land Sachsen, Vermögensverwaltung (Außenstelle Dresden) to Land Sachsen, Ministerium der Finanzen (Hauptabteilung Finanzen, Abteilung Haushalt – Vermögens- und Schuldenverwaltung), 27/9/1951.
- 52 These were the parcels of land with the parcel numbers 623 and 187c (fig. 16). Where 64 Tiergartenstrasse once stood is now the westernmost part (house number 66) of the housing block.
- 53 The report of the inspection of the construction pit in September notes among other things that in the 'western part of the construction pit... [there were] still old foundations to be seen...'; Stadtarchiv Dresden, 10 Bau- und Grundstücksakten, no. 21050 (unpaginated), building site inspection report 27/9/1967, report dated 2/10/1967. This file still contains the construction plans and documents with information about the implementation of the project as a whole (housing block 1, 66, 68, 68a Tiergartenstrasse). This housing block contained a total of twenty-four residential units. Later garages were erected behind the block; see *ibid.*, no. 57027 (unpaginated).
- 54 The choice was probably between parcels of land on Comeniusstrasse and Tiergartenstrasse. Gerhard Wunderlich, who had had a villa built to his own designs on Tiergartenstrasse – according to the Dresden directories this must have been the then no. 34, was the husband of a former school friend of Sophie von Klemperer. The Klemperers' villa was completed during the course of 1914. It seems they were thoroughly pleased with the planning and construction; see Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), pp. 40–41.
- 55 See *ibid.*, p. 42. According to the Dresden directories, Victor lived with his family on the second floor of 2 Zinsendorfstrasse until February 1914, thereafter from 1/3/1914 at 64 Tiergartenstrasse. However, the family did not in fact move into the villa until May, despite the fact that at this point 'some things [were] not yet finished'; *ibid.*
- 56 Although the Stadtarchiv Dresden holds a number of documents from the building control authority (holding call number 2.3.15) containing information on various building projects initiated by Victor, the files that could yield information directly relating to the construction of the villa on Tiergartenstrasse have not survived. The Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Sachsen holds no plans or photographs relating to 64 Tiergartenstrasse. I thank my colleagues at Stadtarchiv Dresden and the Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Sachsen for their kind support. The following descriptions of the villa are therefore based on photographs of the villa (exterior and interior images), on a short film made during the festivities for the golden wedding anniversary of Gustav and Charlotte von Klemperer at the Tiergartenstrasse villa in July 1925, and on a small number of mentions in Victor's memoirs. The von Klemperer family kindly placed the privately owned photographs and the above-mentioned film at the disposal of the

'Rekonstruktion der Porzellansammlung des Dresdner Bankiers Gustav von Klemperer' project supported by the Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste/German Lost Art Foundation from November 2019 to August 2021. A selection of these photographs will be displayed on the project website: www.skd.museum/gustav-von-klemperer.

- 57 In his memoirs Victor mentions the acquisition of other parcels of land, explaining that they 'now [had] a complex of 100 metres frontage and 100 deep on Tiergartenstrasse and Wienerstrasse, creating a splendid garden for the children. Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), p. 45. This evidently refers not only to the parcels of land facing Wiener Strasse, which are to be discussed below in the main text (parcel numbers 620 – 622), but probably also the two sites located on Tiergartenstrasse that adjoined the grounds of the villa to the east (parcel numbers 187 c and 619). Altogether the six plots of land would indeed yield an almost square complex having the dimensions given above (fig. 16).
- 58 Adjoining to the rear of the parcel of land with the parcel number 623 (the villa and its grounds) was the plot facing Wiener Strasse with the parcel number 622 (plot with garage). According to the file memorandum, this plot 'belonged to 64 Tiergartenstrasse' and therefore did not have a separate house number on Wiener Strasse; see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.3.15 Baupolizei, no. 1309. This file contains all the plans for the above-mentioned garage and hen house. The first design was for a garage with a semicircular caged enclosure for the hens. The building control authority lodged several objections, but after revision of the plans work on construction was given the go-ahead. At the end of July 1913 Wunderlich's architectural practice received the permit for construction; see *ibid.*, fol. 17, Baupolizeiamt to Firma Wunderlich, 31/7/1913. The garage was completed in November 1913; see *ibid.*, fol. 21, Firma Wunderlich to Baupolizeiamt, 5/11/1913.
- 59 See Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.3.15 Baupolizei, no. 1309, fols. 22 – 23, Victor von Klemperer to the Baupolizeiamt, 18/11/1913.
- 60 Adjoining the plot of land with the parcel number 622 (plot with garage) were the plots of land with the parcel numbers 621 (later 105 Wiener Strasse) and 620 (later 107 Wiener Strasse). Victor evidently acquired the former plot in 1914, the latter probably not until the beginning of the 1920s; on this see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.3.15 Baupolizei, no. 1308 and no. 1294 (fig. 16).
- 61 From 1938 the businessman Karl Julius Kurt Giersch is given as the owner-occupier of 105 Wiener Strasse (parcel number 621) in the Dresden directories (fig. 16). The Dresden municipal maps recording the damage sustained in the air raids on the city in 1944/45 reveal that this house survived the Second World War with 'slight damage'. The same is true of 'Haus Fischer' at 107 Wiener Strasse (parcel number 620), commissioned by the factory owner Paul Hermann Fischer from Freital (fig. 16). According to the Dresden directories, the smaller house set further back was occupied by a driver, presumably Fischer's chauffeur. Planning on the construction of a villa began in 1936; see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.3.15 Baupolizei, no. 1294. This file contains not only the plans and elevations, etc., for Haus Fischer but also a cadastral map with the intended enlargement of this property, which affected all three adjoining plots (parcel numbers 187 c, 619 and 621). The file also contains documents mentioning the change of owner. The owner of the house named in the documents as the factory-owner Paul Fischer from Lohmen is very likely the individual named in the following web pages: <https://www.saechsische.de/plus/ein-mann-schlaegt-sich-durch-1128400.html> and <http://stadtwiki.fuer-freital.de/index.php/Wirtschaft> (last retrieved on 26/1/2021).
- 62 These are the plots with the parcel numbers 187 m, 187 n and 187 o (fig. 16). Whereas the plot with the parcel number 187 m had already been enclosed by 1921, the two other plots (parcel numbers 187 n and 187 o) were enclosed together in 1922/23. See Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.3.15 Baupolizei, no. 1394 (parcel number 187 m) and no. 1287 (parcel numbers 187 n and 187 o). The files contain the relevant cadastral maps, construction plans, drawings and correspondence.
- 63 The description refers to the plot with the parcel number 187 m (126 Wiener Strasse). On this see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.3.15 Baupolizei, no. 1394.
- 64 Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), p. 51.
- 65 The nurseryman Heinrich Knoblich appears in the Dresden directories as the occupant of the basement of 64 Tiergartenstrasse from 1920, and subsequently from 1925/26 of the small house at 126 Wiener Strasse.
- 66 Those were the two plots with the parcel numbers 187 n (128 Wiener Strasse) and 187 o (130 Wiener Strasse) that Victor von Klemperer had enclosed together in 1922/23 (fig. 16). On this see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.3.15 Baupolizei, no. 1287. On the former plot the above-mentioned factory-owner Paul Fischer (see n. 61) had a 'Kraftwagen-einstellraum' (lit.: storage for motor vehicles) built as late as 1939; see *ibid.* By contrast, on the neighbouring plot (130 Wiener Strasse) it seems that a residential dwelling was erected, the owner and occupier of which, according to the Dresden directories for 1937, was retired major Alfred Theodor Winkler.

- 67 Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), p. 42. In his memoirs Victor von Klemperer also mentions that he had 'the individual rooms of the villa... photographed for us and the children to remember them by. The photographs taken by the sadly meanwhile deceased photographer Sonja [*sic!*; Genja] Jonas turned out quite splendidly.' Ibid., p. 1. Genja Jonas died on 8 May 1938. A monograph on the photographer's life and work exists; see Alexander Atanassow, *Genja Jonas. Eine Dresdner Lichtbildnerin* (Dresden, 2013).
- 68 Gustav-Victor von Klemperer, 'The Two Hearts. The Life Story of a Wanderer Between two Worlds' (typescript), collection of Klemperer family history in the private ownership of Victor von Klemperer, New York. I thank Andreas Graul for facilitating access to this source.
- 69 The air raid protection plan (ground plan) for 64 Tiergartenstrasse recorded as being preserved in the Sächsisches Staatsarchiv, Hauptstaatsarchiv Dresden (Bestand 11307 Militär- und Heeresbauämter Dresden, no. U 1838) is in fact that for 38 Tiergartenstrasse.
- 70 Gustav-Victor von Klemperer, 'The Two Hearts. The Life Story of a Wanderer Between two Worlds' (typescript), p. 4.
- 71 See *ibid.*, p. 4. To our knowledge no photograph of the dining room has been preserved.
- 72 See *ibid.*, p. 4.
- 73 A number of site maps held in the Stadtarchiv Dresden clarify the situation of the entrance on the north-west side of the villa. These site maps are included in the following files among others: Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.3.15 Baupolizei, no. 1308, 1309 and no. 1294. The annex on this side of the house contained work and utility rooms and connecting stairs to the first floor (fig. 16).
- 74 Gustav-Victor von Klemperer, 'The Two Hearts. The Life Story of a Wanderer Between two Worlds' (typescript), p. 5.
- 75 See SächsStA-D, 11125 Ministerium des Kultus und öffentlichen Unterrichts, 18834/1, fols. 1–2, Fritz Fichtner (Director of the Porcelain Collection) to Ministerium für Volksbildung, 1.12.1938; *ibid.*, fol. 5, (for information only) Fritz Fichtner, 2/12/1938 (corresponding to annex to fol. 4), Fritz Fichtner to Ministerium für Volksbildung, 3/12/1938. Not until after the reunification of Germany was the von Klemperer family able to make a successful application to the Dresden State Art Collections to enable research on the art treasures seized during the National Socialist era to be carried out. All previous attempts by the family had been unsuccessful; on this see among other sources SächsStA-D, 11455 Bezirksgericht Dresden, 1318 (unpaginated). In her essay 'COLLECTED – EXPROPRIATED – LOST – RESTITUTED – GIFTED: The Gustav von Klemperer Porcelain Collection', Anette Loesch examines in detail the collection of Gustav von Klemperer, its seizure and loss, as well as the restitutions made by the Dresden State Art Collections in 1991 and 2010; see <https://doi.org/10.11588/artdok.00007286>.
- 76 The Dresden directories, in which Victor, on account of the loss of his position at the Dresdner Bank, was described as early as 1935 as bank director 'in Rente' ('pensioned-off') and from 1938 as bank director 'außer Dienst' ('retired'), still listed him up to and including 1942 as the owner of 64 Tiergartenstrasse. From 1939 this entry was supplemented by his current place of residence, Bulawayo.
- 77 The Dresden directories do not contain any evidence of public authorities or institutions as tenants at this address. To our knowledge, nor have any documents been preserved, either in the Sächsisches Staatsarchiv, Hauptstaatsarchiv Dresden, or in the Stadtarchiv Dresden, that could provide any information in this matter. Requests for information relating to this matter submitted to the Bundesarchiv also received negative replies. The conclusion – as for example presented on the website <http://www.dresdner-stadtteile.de/> (last retrieved on 23/2/2021) – that the Reichsfinanzverwaltung used this property until 1945 is not correct. The entries from the Dresden directories that record 'Das Deutsche Reich – Reichsfinanzverwaltung' as the new owners have probably been erroneously interpreted.
- 78 He is listed as the occupier of 64 Tiergartenstrasse in the Dresden directories in 1943/44. It is likely, however, that Schaar lived here before 1943. On the reliability of this source see n. 9.
- 79 Basic information on Schaar can be found on the 'Richter der Wehrmacht' database of the Stiftung Sächsische Gedenkstätten, Dokumentations- und Informationszentrum (DIZ) Torgau: <https://www.stsg.de/cms/torgau/recherche/datenbank-zu-richtern-der-wehrmacht> (last retrieved on 22/1/2021). Cordial thanks are due to Elisabeth Kohlhaas and Wolfgang Oleschinski for their kind assistance and much additional information. In order to obtain further information on Wilhelm Schaar requests were submitted to the Bundesarchiv Berlin and the Bundesarchiv Freiburg (Military Archives). Initial research has revealed that two individuals with the name Wilhelm Schaar are recorded in the files/card indexes with the following dates of birth: 30/11/1899 and 31/12/1905. Research continues. I thank Christiane Botzet (Bundesarchiv Freiburg) and Michael Hemmler (Bundesarchiv Berlin) for their kind support.
- 80 This plot corresponds to parcel number 69 g.

- 81 According to the map of war damage compiled by the Dresden municipal authorities the villa was only 'slightly damaged'; see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 4.1.9 Stadtbauamt, map of damage sustained in Dresden, revised 1945/1946, accessible online at: http://www.deutschefotothek.de/documents/obj/70400171/dd_stad_0000005 (last retrieved on 25/2/2021).
- 82 See Michaela Howse, 'Breaking Porcelain. A Journey in the Curatorship of Inherited Meissen Shards' (MA thesis at Stellenbosch University), March 2017, p. 56. Michaela Howse also examines the von Klemperer family and their persecution and fate in exile in her essay 'The Golden Art of Repair'; see <https://doi.org/10.11588/artdok.00007289>.
- 83 Ralph Leopold and Lili (née Huldshinsky) married in Berlin on 9 December 1913. They moved to Vienna, where Ralph Leopold worked at the Skoda plant; on this see the marriage certificate (Ancestry; <https://www.ancestry.de>) and the Leo Baeck Institute Archives, Memoir Collection (ME 559), pp. 41–42, 52. From 1910 to 1913 Ralph Leopold initially worked as an engineer in Pilsen (Bohemia) and in 1913/14 for the general directorate of the Skoda plant in Vienna. Subsequently he was active as managing director of Cartonnagen-Industrie AG in Dresden from 1919 to 1936; see Werner Röder and Herbert A. Strauss (eds.), *Biographisches Handbuch der deutschsprachigen Emigration nach 1933*, vol. 1 (Politik, Wirtschaft, Öffentliches Leben), published by the Institut für Zeitgeschichte/Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History, Munich, and the Research Foundation for Jewish Immigration, New York (Munich, 1999), p. 370.
- 84 Ralph is listed as the owner-occupier of the villa in the Dresden directories from 1920. The basement was rented to one Hermann Rafelt, postal clerk and later cash messenger, who is given as a tenant up to and including 1939. The previous owner of the villa was Generalmajor Bernhard von der Schulenburg, who according to the Dresden directories also lived at the villa himself.
- 85 This list is also accessible online: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liste_der_Kulturdenkmale_in_Strehlen_\(Dresden\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liste_der_Kulturdenkmale_in_Strehlen_(Dresden)) (last retrieved on 25/2/2021).
- 86 The period photographs come from a family album. They were reproduced at one time for the Dresden State Art Collections; see Archiv der Staatlichen Kunstsammlungen Dresden, 920/Fotoarchiv, folder 9. For this essay only those photographs that were of sufficiently good quality were chosen to be presented here. No historical plans or photographs of the house at 86 Wiener Strasse have been preserved at the Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Sachsen or the Stadtarchiv Dresden. I thank my colleagues at the Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Sachsen and the Stadtarchiv Dresden for their kind assistance. Whereas most of the rooms – for example, the salon – were furnished with European furniture and artworks, the decoration of the small dining room was conspicuously different. The objects on the wall are East Asian works of art, lacquered wooden panels with inlaid work in jade, stone, etc. The screen at the left-hand edge of the picture is in the same style. Cordial thanks are due to Cora Würmell, curator of East Asian porcelain at the Porcelain Collection of the Dresden State Art Collections for her assistance in identifying the artworks in this photograph.
- 87 Puzzlingly, Ralph's place of residence is given here as 'Bulawayo', when in fact he had settled with his family in South Africa.
- 88 Also recorded here is 'Voigt, Frz. [Franziska] L. [Louise] Hell. [Hella] vhl. [married]'.
- 89 The villa was divided into flats and has remained a multiple dwelling ever since. The new owner of 86 Wiener Strasse was the VEB – Kommunale Wohnungsverwaltung (a publicly owned housing administration enterprise); see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 10 Bau- und Grundstücksakten, no. 34560.
- 90 In the 1970s and 1980s garages and carports were erected in the garden; see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 10 Bau- und Grundstücksakten, no. 57155.
- 91 These plots once corresponded to the parcel numbers 63 and 65 a. They are now subsumed as one plot with the parcel number 65/1, which today still adjoins 86 Wiener Strasse (parcel number 69 g). The current cadastral map can be accessed at: <https://geoportal.sachsen.de/?map=55274220-dd5d-4818-90e2-0f24eee30cbf> (last retrieved on 1/3/2021).
- 92 According to the Dresden directories the previous owner of 80 Wiener Strasse until 1930 was the businessman and retired consul Johannes Theodor Miller. Miller lived in a semi-detached villa at 90 Wiener Strasse (designed and commissioned by master builder Hans Gerlach, Dresden). This villa was destroyed in the Second World War. For construction plans, ground plans, etc. see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.3.15 Baupolizei, no. 1365.
- 93 This plot previously bore the parcel number 63. One Paul Mühle was listed at this address in the Dresden directories – as coachman up to and including 1935, thereafter as chauffeur.
- 94 As mentioned in the case of the other villas, it is not until the 1943 directory that 'Das Deutsche Reich – Reichsfinanzverwaltung' is listed as the owner of the property, with its administration residing with the 'Finanzamt Dresden – Kloostergasse'.

- 95 See n. 42.
- 96 See Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.03.3 Verwaltung von städtischem, Reichs-, NS- u. a. Vermögen, no. 210, fol. 3, Finanzamt Dresden (Abteilung Vermögensverwaltung) to Land Sachsen, Ministerium der Finanzen (Hauptabteilung Finanzen, Abteilung Haushalt – Vermögens- und Schuldenverwaltung), 25/10/1950. Accompanying this letter concerning the fiduciary administration of properties from formerly confiscated or forfeited assets were various annexes; on 80 Wiener Strasse see *ibid.*, fol. 7 (corresponding to Annex 4; 'Aufstellung unbebauter Grundstücke'). The fiduciary administration of the property was to pass to the direct administration of Land Sachsen – Vermögensverwaltung – Außenstelle Dresden. See *ibid.*, fol. 11, Land Sachsen, Ministerium der Finanzen (Hauptabteilung Finanzen, Abteilung Haushalt – Vermögens- und Schuldenverwaltung) to Land Sachsen, Vermögensverwaltung (Außenstelle Dresden), 24/3/1951. If the archive sources are followed, the administration lay in the hands of 'Firma Wolf & Otto', a company that had not reacted to various attempts at communication by the Vermögensverwaltung des Landes Sachsen; see *ibid.*, fol. 30, Land Sachsen, Vermögensverwaltung (Außenstelle Dresden) to Land Sachsen, Ministerium der Finanzen (Hauptabteilung Finanzen, Abteilung Haushalt – Vermögens- und Schuldenverwaltung), 27/9/1951.
- 97 See Stadtarchiv Dresden, 4.1.9 Stadtbauamt, map recording war damage sustained in Dresden, revised 1945/1946, accessible online at: http://www.deutschefotothek.de/documents/obj/70400171/dd_stad_0000005 (last retrieved on 2/3/2021). The files concerning construction and site and the site plans contained therein from the 1960s reveal that there were plans to extend the original building on parcel number 63. One Erich Weise was running a nursery garden there and wanted to create extra space with an extension. It is interesting that the site plans from the 1960s still bear a note that the ownership of these two plots (parcel numbers 63 and 65a) – belonging to Ralph von Klemperer – is as yet not clarified. This note no longer appears from the 1970s. The ground plans and elevations of the original building and the planned extensions have been preserved; see Stadtarchiv Dresden, 10 Bau- und Grundstücksakten, no. 57154. In the 1970s it was proposed to erect a garage for the occupants of 82 Wiener Strasse on parcel number 65 facing Wiener Strasse; see *ibid.*, no. 18179.
- 98 Concerning this matter, the project 'Rekonstruktion der Porzellansammlung des Dresdner Bankiers Gustav von Klemperer' has initiated dialogue between the Stolpersteine für Dresden e.V. ('Stumbling Blocks for Dresden'; a commemorative project with concrete paving cubes bearing a brass plate inscribed with the name and life dates of victims of Nazi extermination or persecution) and the von Klemperer family. The results of this project, which is being supported by the Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste from November 2019 to August 2021 are accessible online at: www.skd.museum/gustav-von-klemperer.

Picture credits

- 1 Jörg Brune, Dresden (via: <https://altisdresden.de/>)
- 2–6, 14, 15, 22–28, 35–37 Von Klemperer family
- 7 Robert Raithel, Leipzig (Leipziger Münzhandlung und Auktion Heidrun Höhn e.K.)
- 8–10 Stadtarchiv Dresden, 6.4.40.1 Stadtplanungsamt Bildstelle, no. I 14532/1–3, anonymous photographer, April 1952
- 11, 13, 20, 30, 31 Kathrin Iselt, Dresden
- 12 Stadtarchiv Dresden, 6.4.40.1 Stadtplanungsamt Bildstelle, Nr. I 10185, anonymous photographer, May 1962
- 16 Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.3.15 Baupolizeiamt, no. 1308, fol. 1
- 17 Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.3.15 Baupolizeiamt, no. 1309, fol. 3
- 18, 19, 21 Stadtarchiv Dresden, 2.3.15 Baupolizeiamt, no. 1394, fol. 4, 5, 11
- 29 Bernd Gross (via: https://de.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Wiener_Stra%C3%9Fe_86_Strehlen.JPG)
- 32–34 Archives of the Dresden State Art Collections, 920/Fotoarchiv, folder 9, photographs 3040, 3056, 3036 (von Klemperer family)
- 38 SLUB, Deutsche Fotothek, Henrik Ahlers, 1992 (df_hauptkatalog_0420706)

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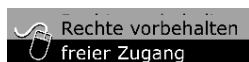
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Kathrin Iselt

Die Dresdner Villen der Familie von Klemperer
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Andreas Graul

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Michaela Howse

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Michaela Howse: Die Kunst der goldenen Reparatur: Eine persönliche Sicht darauf, was es bedeutet, in der Restitutions- und Gedenkkultur Gerechtigkeit zu üben

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Anette Loesch

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Die Porzellansammlung Gustav von Klemperers

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Anette Loesch: COLLECTED – EXPROPRIATED – LOST – RESTITUTED – GIFTED:

The Gustav von Klemperer Porcelain Collection

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Sabine Rudolph

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