

Ernest Manheim

sociologist, anthropologist, and composer

HUNGARY 1900-1920

Born Ernő Manheim as the elder of two children of the owner of a tailoring József (Joseph) Manheim (1863-1925) and his wife Hermine, née Wengraf (1870-1953; later married Déri), in Budapest on January 27, 1900. Educated bilingual (Hungarian, German) in Budapest, then capital of the Hungarian part of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Grammar-school in Budapest IV. 1909-17, matriculation July, 1917. Then educated at the Military Academy of Budapest ("Ludoviceum"); besides student of chemistry at the Technical University of Budapest in 1917 and 1918/19. In-between soldier of the Austro-Hungarian army 1918 at the front in Italy. After the World War I he returned to Budapest to continue his studies. Participated in the Soviet Republic of Hungary (March to July, 1919) as volunteer (lieutenant) in the Red Army, first against Czechoslovakia, then against Romania, where he was imprisoned at Arad. In October, 1919 he could flee to the north-east of Hungary and at the beginning of 1920 to Vienna.

AUSTRIA 1920-1923

In Austria as well as in Germany he used the name Ernst Manheim. Student of chemistry and physics, later of philosophy at the University of Vienna 1920-23. Between November, 1921 and June, 1922 in Schwaz (Tyrol), formally student at the University of Innsbruck.

GERMANY 1923-1933

1923-25 in Kiel. Student of philosophy at the University of Kiel 1923-25. Followed his teacher, the sociologist Hans Freyer (1887-1969), with whom he became acquainted in 1923, to Leipzig in 1925. 1925-33 in Leipzig. Student of philosophy, political economy and sociology at the University of Leipzig 1925-27; Dr. phil. (Ph.D.; philosophy) in 1928 with Theodor Litt (1880-1962) and Hans Freyer; thesis: "Zur Logik des konkreten Begriffs" (A logic of concrete concept). Unpaid assistant with Hans Freyer 1926-33 and lecturer at the University of Leipzig 1929-32. Besides lecturer at the University Extension of Leipzig 1926-33. Married the German Anna Sophie Vitters (later Ann Sophy Manheim; *Osnabrück 1899, †Kansas City, Missouri 1988) in 1928. Anna Sophie Manheim-Vitters was a teacher who studied since 1924 philosophy at the University of Leipzig; Dr. phil. (Ph.D.) in 1929; thesis: "[Lothar] Bucher und [Ferdinand] Lassalle (1848-1864). Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte politischer Ideenbildung im 19. Jahrhundert" (Bucher and Lassalle. A contribution to the formation of political ideas during the 19th century); later certificate in industrial psychology, University of London; social worker. One son: Tibor Franz Dietrich (later Frank Tibor) Manheim (*Leipzig 1930); he studied at the Harvard University (A.B. 1951), the University of Minnesota (M.Sc. 1953), and the University of Stockholm (Dr. phil. 1961); geochemist. 1931-32 one and a half year fellowship of the August-Stern-Stiftung to write his study of habilitation "Die Träger der öffentlichen Meinung" (The organs of public opinion). The procedure of habilitation with Hans Freyer, which started in June, 1932, was broken off "freely" on March 28, 1933 because Ernest Manheim didn't have any chance as foreigner and Jew.

He returned with his family to Budapest where he spent the time until winter.

GREAT BRITAIN 1933-1937

In Great Britain as well as in the United States of America he used the name Ernest Manheim. In December, 1933 he came to London. Student of sociology and anthropology at the University of London and London School of Economics 1934-37; Ph.D. (anthropology) 1937 with Morris Ginsberg (1889-1970), Bronislaw Malinowski (i.e. Bronisław Kaspar Malinowski; 1884-1942), and his cousin Karl Mannheim (i.e. Károly Mannheim; 1893-1947); thesis: "Security, authority, and society: an ethnological introduction into sociology". Besides assistant with Karl Mannheim at the London School of Economics and Political Science and at the Institute of Sociology of the University of London 1934-37. Fellowship of the Jewish Professional Committee 1935-36 (study about the "Authoritarian element in the family"). In Spring 1937 short stay in New York and Budapest.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: SINCE 1937

Arrived definitely in the United States in July, 1937; naturalized in 1943 as Ernest Manheim.

1937-38 in Chicago, Illinois. Assistant professor of sociology at the University of Chicago in Chicago, Ill. 1937-38.

Since August, 1938 in Kansas City, Missouri, where he is still living. Since 1938 member of the University of Kansas City (since 1968: University of Missouri) at Kansas City, Mo.: 1938-40 fellow of the Rockefeller-Foundation, 1940-45 associate professor of sociology, 1948-70 professor of sociology and chairman of the Department of Sociology, which was constructed by him; since 1958 Henry Haskell professor of sociology, since 1991 professor emeritus.

Fulbright professor at the University of Graz and the University of Vienna 1955-56. Fulbright professor at the University of Teheran 1960-61.

Married the Canadian psychologist Sheelagh Bull, née Hope (*Oliver, British Columbia 1943), in 1991.

1997 Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst (order of honor for science and art) of the Republic of Austria.

Besides his activities in science Ernest Manheim is a skilled artisan and a composer. Many of his compositions had their first performances at Kansas City as e.g. his "Symphony in B Minor" in 1950.