

tist refusing membership, or of the blocking of an election by the American Military Government, then politely styled the High Command. He emphasized that he would feel such a rejection as shameful. This does not mean that Perron did not accept the burden of guilt that fell upon the academicians. On the contrary:

And now, about the emigrants! It is before them especially that we cannot present ourselves as an illustrious company. For we have let them all down. We should not try to elevate ourselves before them, but rather crawl away and hide in shame. I feel personally ashamed myself, and that is my point. This is why I advocate utmost restraint and modest flourishing in seclusion. For, what did we, what did the Academy do during the Third Reich to save the persecuted scholars? Nothing. We adopt the comfortable excuse that we didn't have the power, that we were incapable of it. In reality, however, we failed to make any serious attempt. Every one of us simply shrank from the risk, perhaps before the conflicting ethical motive of looking out for his own family. We were no heroes. But the emigrants had, for the most part, no

choice at all; they had to take the risk together with their families and they suffered infinitely. This is why they stand, in the world's esteem, a considerable step above us, who silently let it happen. Hermann Weyl, to be sure, is willing to forget (not only because as a star of the highest order he got through relatively well, but also because he is a generous soul); he has shown by coming here that he wishes well to all of us. But I still do not want to magnify myself in front of him, and I'm afraid that for instance Einstein, his neighbour and colleague, will say to him, "Oh, I see, the Bavarian Academy! They have nothing to be so conceited about; I offer condolences. By the way, those gentlemen already invited me too, but I smacked them in the face."

This whole tragic situation can be fundamentally changed only when Germany has full recognition and equality in the world again. Only then will the German academies also regain their old standing. No one can predict how long this will take; perhaps today's heavily burdened generation (the burden, by the way, is not only on us) will have to die out first.

For van der Waerden, things are entirely different. He spent most of his scientific life in Germany, so in particular he experienced with us, to a certain extent as a fellow prisoner, the Third Reich at its source. For me he does not count as a foreigner, any more than, for instance, Carathéodory. We also do not need to feel shame in his presence. He did what we all did, that is, detest Nazism and keep his clenched fist in a sack. That is why he understands us and we understand him.

This is a quotation from Oskar Perron's letter, typed in German, of January 1951 (Deutsches Museum. Archiv NL 89, 012), published in vol. 2, pp. 647–649 of Eckert, Michael, and Märker, Karl (eds.), *Arnold Sommerfeld—Wissenschaftlicher Briefwechsel* (Berlin, Diepholz, München, Deutsches Museum, Verlag für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften und der Technik, 2000, 2004). The letter was translated by Spyridon Georgiadis; the obituary was translated by the author.

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Erratum

In *The Mathematical Intelligencer*, vol. 29, no. 2, the article The Hexagonal Parquet Tiling, k -Isohedral Monotiles with Arbitrarily Large k , by Joshua E. S. Socolar, appeared on pp. 33–38. Inadvertently it was not the complete and final version.

The final version is posted on Marjorie Senechal's website, <http://math.smith.edu/~senechal/>.

—The Editors