

# Sand and Stars

From a Manuscript to a Digital Edition  
(07/2022 - 12/2023)

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**DZI** Deutsches Zentralinstitut  
für soziale Fragen

e-Lijah lab – מעבדת אליהו  
מעבדה וחממה למדעי הרוח הדיגיטליים

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

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## 01

### Siddy Wronsky

Siddy (Sidonie) Wronsky, née Neufeld (Berlin, 1882–Jerusalem, 1947), was an important social reformist and social worker. She embodies the strong link between German social work and Zionist ideas, as she was a major activist in both the German welfare system and later in Mandatory Palestine. She was board member (since 1914) and the first full-time manager (1923–1933) of the “Archiv für Wohlfahrtspflege”, which was renamed into “Deutsches Zentralinstitut für soziale Fragen (DZI)” in 1964.

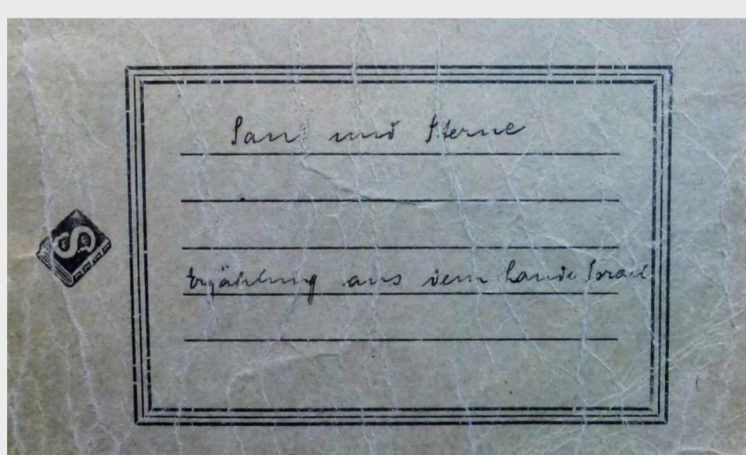


Siddy Wronsky (photo: Central Zionist Archives, Jerusalem)

## 02

### Sand and Stars

The main goal of the project is the digitization of Siddy Wronsky's novel “Sand and Stars”. The manuscript was found by Dr. Ayana Halpern in the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem. “Sand and Stars” is not a scientific work but a piece of literature. The manuscript is presented in German (188 pages), English (109 pages), and Hebrew (84 pages). The text, whose time of creation is unclear, will now be made public for the first time. The story deals with four young Jews who are setting out with a group of Jewish orphans from Berlin to Eretz Israel in order to build up a future in the spirit of their Zionist vision.



Detail from the title page of the German manuscript of “Sand and Stars” (Central Zionist Archives, Jerusalem)

## 03

### Project goals

- Digitization and CCO-publication of the novel's manuscript in three languages (German, English, Hebrew)
- Exploration of the significance of the novel for the history of social work
- Completion of the knowledge and sources on the history and development of DZI
- Expansion of DZI expertise in terms of digitization of analogue sources

## 04

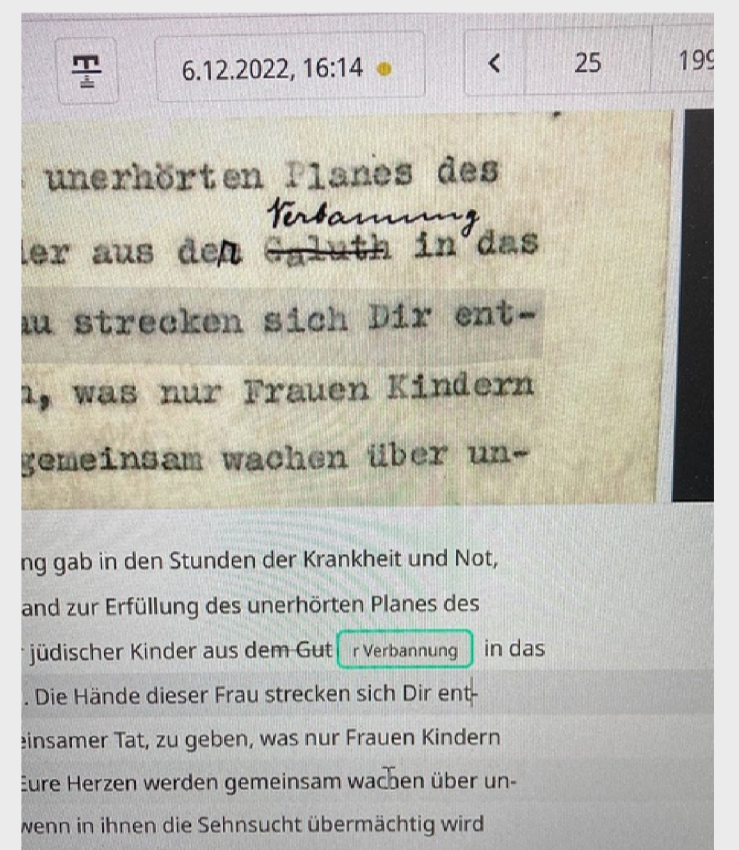
### Project team

- M.A. Stephanie Pigorsch (DZI, Berlin)
- Gr. ec. Burkhard Wilke (DZI, Berlin)
- Dr. Ayana Halpern (Post-Doc at Free University of Berlin)
- Dr. Yehudit Avnir (The Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare at Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- Dr. Dayana Lau (Alice Salomon Archiv Berlin)
- Dr. Sinai Rusinek, Dr. Eliezer Baumgarten (The e-Lijah-Lab at University of Haifa)

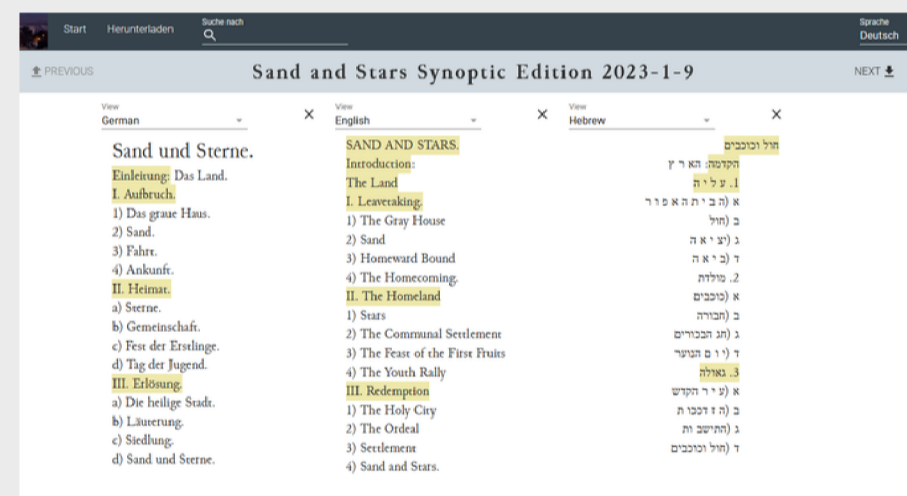
## 05

### Process

- 1) Digitization
  - Scanning of the three language version
  - Editing with the Transkribus platform
  - Correcting of some pages and training of the OCR models
  - Correcting of OCR errors
  - Establishing transcription guidelines
- 2) Enrichment
  - Structuring of the XML TEI text
  - Enriching with entities (place, name, institution etc.)
  - Coding of phrases of particular subject interest (e.g. concepts related to social work and history).
  - Enabling parallel reading in the three editions by aligning sections at paragraph level
- 3) Publishing the edition
  - Online hosting of the digital edition in a TEI Publisher environment
  - Providing XML TEI version for open access



Corrections in Transkribus Lite (photo: S. Pigorsch)



Preview of the implementation in TEI-viewer (photo: S. Pigorsch)

## 06

### Meaning

The project

- draws attention to the historical and professional background of the novel
- contributes to research on social workers in exile in Mandate Palestine and their significance for the development and academization of social work in Israel
- uses the new digital possibilities of synchronous comparison of the three language versions for scientific analysis

### LITERATURE

**Halpern, Ayana:** Between universal and national ‘social therapy’? Professional interventions by Jewish social workers in British Mandatory Palestine. In: European Journal of Social Work 6/2019, pp. 1085–1097  
**Lau, Dayana; Halpern, Ayana:** Jewish Social Work Biographies between Germany and Mandatory Palestine. Women Professionals as Transnational Agents from the 1920s to the 1940s. In: Soziale Arbeit 1/2023, pp.2–12