



by Eveline Hasler  
Nagel & Kimche  
January 2013 / 224pp  
Non-Fiction

This book is outside of the five-year window for guaranteed assistance with English language translation. We suggest getting in touch with the relevant funding body for an informal conversation about the possibility of support. Please refer to our recommendations page for books that are currently covered by our funding guarantee.

## The Last Boat Out. Varian Fry's Dangerous Mission

*Mit dem letzten Schiff. Der gefährliche Auftrag von Varian Fry*

### review

*The Last Boat Out* describes the heroic work of Varian Fry, an American journalist who saved the lives of hundreds of leading European intellectuals during World War II. The flight of European refugees from fascism has proven of great and lasting interest to English-language readers, and this work will be no exception.

In 1940, Fry, who wrote for *The New York Times* and was among the first to alert the American public to the dangers of Nazism, was asked by the newly-formed Emergency Rescue Committee to establish an office for them in France. The purpose of the ERC was to arrange the safe passage to the United States of leading European writers, artists, and intellectuals. Fry agreed and founded the *Centre Américain de Secours* (American Relief Centre) in Marseilles that same year. While operating as a legal French relief organisation, the Centre also illegally procured exit visas and passports that would allow their recipients to exit Vichy France for Spain and Portugal. Fry and his co-workers devoted themselves to this hazardous task in the face of growing opposition not only from the Vichy government, but from American officials in France. Fry was considered too progressive, placed under surveillance as a Communist sympathiser, and finally forced to return to the United States in 1941. In the short time that Fry was working in Marseilles, he saved hundreds of lives:

an illustrious list of exiles and refugees that includes Heinrich Mann, Anna Seghers, Marcel Duchamp, André Breton and Walter Benjamin.

Eveline Hasler's captivating historical drama is full of personal anecdotes that give the reader a sense of the real Fry. The book's final section covers the years following Fry's return to the United States, where he was barred from the office of the ERC after publicly criticising it, and continued to be accused of Communist sympathies. Varian Fry died at home in 1967, while working on an edition of his memoirs for young people. Thirty years after his death he became the first American to be honoured with the title 'Righteous Among the Nations' by Yad Vashem.

*The Last Boat Out* joins a growing body of rescue literature, including Fry's own *Surrender on Demand* and the forthcoming English translation of Anna Seghers' novel, *Transit*, whose enduring popularity is due not least to the great contributions to world literature and thought made by those who were rescued.

## about the author

**Eveline Hasler** was born in Glarus, Switzerland, and now lives in Ticino in Switzerland. Her novels have been translated into many languages and have won numerous awards.

### Previous works include:

*Stein bedeutet Liebe* (2007), *Und werde immer Ihr Freund sein* (2010), *Der Engel und das schwarze Herz* (2012)

## rights information

Carl Hanser Verlag

Kolbergerstr. 22

81679 München, Germany

Tel: +49 89 998 30 509

Email: [Barakat@hanser.de](mailto:Barakat@hanser.de)

Contact: Friederike Barakat

[www.hanser-literaturverlage.de](http://www.hanser-literaturverlage.de)

**Carl Hanser Verlag** was established by its eponymous owner in 1928 in Munich, and its founder's interests in both literature and science have been maintained to the present day. The firm publishes fiction and non-fiction for both adults and children. Its authors include Italo Calvino, Umberto Eco, Jostein Gaarder, Lars Gustafsson, Milan Kundera, Harry Mulisch, Philip Roth, Susan Sontag, Botho Strauß, Raoul Schrott, Rafik Schami, Alfred Brendel, Elke Heidenreich and

ten Nobel prizewinners, among them Elias Canetti, whose works have been translated into more than thirty different languages.