

## A Book That Could Not: An Impossible Copy of Norbert Elias' Exiled 1939 Two-Volume Book?

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Retired Dr. mult. Jeroen Staring taught mathematics at secondary schools in the Netherlands. His 2005 Medical Sciences dissertation describes the life, work and technique of F. Matthias Alexander. In 2013 he successfully defended a second dissertation, on the early history of the NYC Bureau of Educational Experiments.

The author wishes to acknowledge assistance by the archivist/librarian at the Section Classified Archives (ADIV-S-CA) of the Belgian Armed Forces; Brussels, Belgium.

**Abstract:** *This descriptive miniature case study presents results of an initial investigation into the history of a copy of a book written by philosopher Norbert Elias, published in 1939, with official Nazi German censorship stamp impressions from the WWII POW camp Stammlager XI B.*

**Key Words:** *Else "Els" (Borst-) Eilers (1932-2014); Norbert Leo Elias (1897-1990); Alexander Farquharson (1880-1954); Sigmund Schlomo Freud (1856-1939); Siegmund Heinrich Fuchs / Foulkes (1898-1976); Johan Goudsblom (1932-2020); Sir Philip Joseph Hartog (1864-1947); Richard Hönigswald (1875-1947); Ernö/Ernest Manheim (1900-2002); Joseph Emile Albert Veraert (1915-1967); Andreas Wehowsky (1953-2010). Über den Prozess der Zivilisation.*

**Conflict of Interest:** *Dr. Jeroen Staring owns the two volumes of **Über den Prozess der Zivilisation** from 1939, as discussed here and as shown in five illustrations below.*

### Introduction

In October 2012, the Dutch literary magazine *Tirade* published an autobiographical paper by the then emeritus professor Joop Goudsblom of the University of Amsterdam. The story was about the Dutch participation in a UNESCO essay contest on "The World We Want" that he won at the age of 16 during his high school days. Goudsblom's initial goal was to write the essay to avoid an afternoon of gymnastics education, as the title of his paper implies: "*Twee maanden in Engeland, of de gevolgen van het niet naar gym gaan*" [≈ 'Two months in England, or: the consequences of not attending gymnastics classes'].

Together with another Dutch winner, Else ("Els") Eilers (also 16 years old, later professor in medical ethics and Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport in the Netherlands), he flew from Amsterdam to England on March 10, 1949, to get acquainted with English education, culture, and daily life (see *Figure 1*). During his stays in London, Manchester, the Lake District, and Cambridge, Goudsblom sent reports of his experiences to the *Krommenieër*, the *Typhoon* and the *Zaanlander* — Dutch local newspapers in his area of residence. The visit to England was organized by the Council for Education in World Citizenship and the British newspaper *Daily Mail*. Goudsblom, Eilers and twenty-four other prize winners (from twelve countries) concluded their nine-week visit to England by attending the World Forum of Youth in London on 9 May 1949.

This episode in Goudsblom's life did also appear in *Geleerd*, the first part of his planned three-part autobiography (Goudsblom, 2016, pp. 125-139). *Geleerd* also includes a section in which Goudsblom describes his first meeting — in the summer of 1956 in Amsterdam — with Norbert Elias, then professor of sociology at the University of Leicester, England — a German by birth, of Jewish descent, naturalized as a British citizen in 1952, and author of the two-volume *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation*, published in Switzerland in 1939 when he was a refugee in London:

It was a special moment for me and, as it turned out, also for Elias: for he had never met someone from outside his circle of acquaintances who had read his book and therefore wanted to get to know him. (Goudsblom, 2016, p. 230; translation J.S.).

Since then, until his death recently in 2020, Goudsblom has contributed enormously to getting Elias' Figurational Sociology discussed, commented on, and accepted in academic circles (see Goudsblom, 2020).



Figure 1: Johan Goudsblom, March 10, 1949, at the Devonshire Club, London.  
(Jeroen Staring Collection).



Figure 2: Norbert Elias, June 22, 1987, at his appointment as Commander in the Order of Orange Nassau.  
(Jeroen Staring Collection).

### *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation in Stammlager XI B*

While living in exile in London in the mid-1930s, Norbert Elias wrote *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation*. In 1937 the book was printed in Germany, at the printers C. Schulze & Co. in Gräfenhainichen near Berlin. However, the book to be published by Academia Verlag in Prague, could not be published because the publisher went into exile not long after the work was printed. In 1939, then, the Basel, Switzerland, Verlag Haus zum Falken published *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* (Kärger, 1977; Korte, 2017).

In a 1984 interview, Elias outlined the political circumstances surrounding the publication of his work. Among other things, he said:

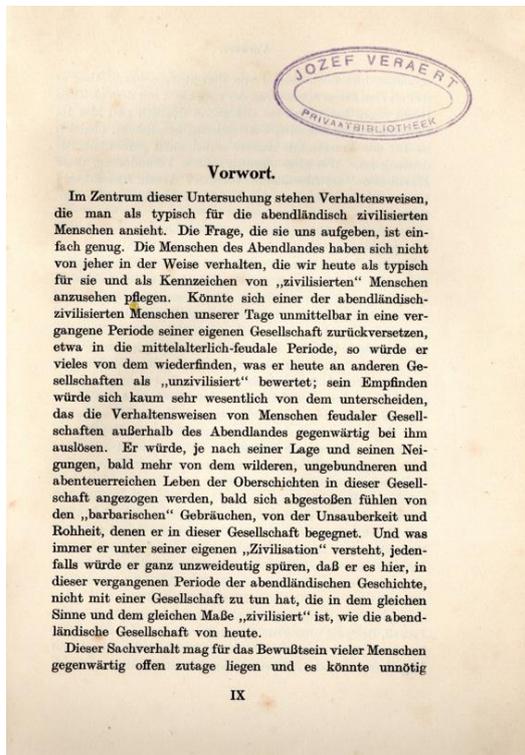
‘Yes, I was very lucky. First the publisher emigrated without paying the printer; my father had to do that, and that was only possible with the permission of the Nazi authorities, because Jews were no longer allowed to use their bank accounts. Once it was printed, I found a publisher in Switzerland. [...] I believe the first volume was published in 1938, and the second in 1939. I do not remember how many copies were printed. I do know that after the war I visited the publisher and he said: Look, my basement is full of them, can't we clear them out? Nobody wants it.’ (Elias in: Heerma van Vos & van Stolk, 1984, p. 26; translation J.S.).

Before and during World War II, few reviews of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* appeared and only a very small number of copies of the book were sold (Kärger, 1977; see *Note 1*). The author of this miniature case study only recently purchased one of those rare copies (see *Note 2*). It appears to have ended up early in the Second World War in the prisoner of war camp *Stammlager (Stalag) XI B* near Bad Fallingb., in Lower Saxony, northern Germany.

The top of the front cover of both volumes bears a name (see *Figure 5* and *Figure 7*), imaginably that of the owner, but crossed out by ink or pencil. Closer inspection through a magnifying glass suggests it could be ‘Jos Veraert’ — ‘Jos’ short for ‘Josef,’ ‘Jozef,’ or ‘Josephus.’ The surname ‘Veraert,’ a Flemish-

Belgian/Dutch name, is not very common in Belgium and in the Netherlands. (Note that *Stammlager XI B* had prisoners of war of more than ten nationalities, including POWs from Belgium and the Netherlands.)

Since page *ix* in the first volume has an owner's stamp print, it can with certainty be stated the volumes (once) belonged to Jozef Veraert; the print reads “*Jozef Veraert Privaatbibliotheek*” (‘Jozef Veraert Private Library;’ see *Figure 3*). Research at the Section Classified Archives (ADIV-S-CA) of the Belgian Armed Forces in Brussels, Belgium confirmed that Belgian military officer Joseph Emile Albert Veraert was a prisoner of war at *Stammlager XI B* during the Second World War (see *Note 4*). Both volumes of Elias’ book discussed here belonged to him before, during and after World War II.



**Figure 3: Page *ix* inclusive ownership stamp impression in first volume of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation*, discussed here (Elias, 1939a, p. *ix*).**

**Figure 4: Captain Commander Joseph E. A. Veraert.  
(Section Classified Archives (ADIV-S-CA) of the Belgian Armed Forces; Brussels, Belgium).**

Both front covers of Elias’ book discussed here also have a (red) ink stamp impression that reads “*18 Geprüft Stalag XI B*” — German for ‘18 Verified Stalag XI B.’ Which means the book has been inspected by the authorities of *Stammlager XI B* and found to be in order to be read. The number 18 most probably is the censor’s identification number (see also *Figure 17*).

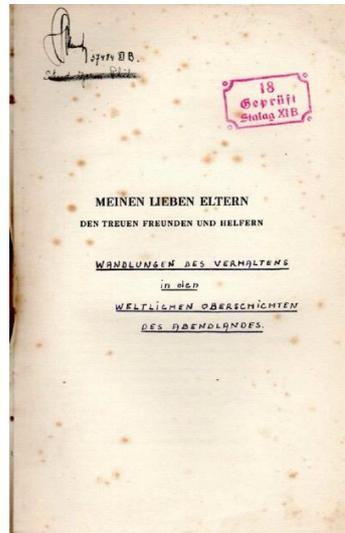
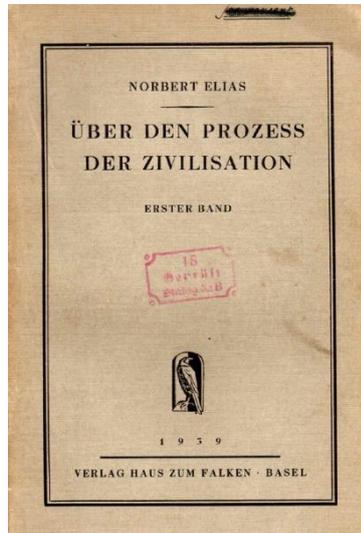
In both volumes of the copy of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* discussed here the first four unpagged pages have been removed. The unpagged fourth page in (other) surviving copies of the book contains information about the book’s printer: “*Printed in Germany. Druck von C. Schulze & Co., GMBH., Gräfenhainichen*,” and the back cover of surviving copies contains the text “*Druck von C. Schulze & Co., GMBH., Gräfenhainichen*” (Elias, 1939be). In most of the surviving copies of the book (e.g., Elias, 1939cf), the printer information has been crossed out by the publisher on the fourth unpagged page and on the back cover (Kärger, 1977, p. 23). The printer information on the back cover of both volumes of Elias’ book discussed here is crossed out, indicating that the volumes were not sold in Nazi Germany.

Furthermore, the back cover of the first volume discussed here has a very faint pencil date: “*11.6.39*” (perhaps the date of purchase; or the date of receipt of the work?) as well as two illegible words.

The second volume discussed here has a 4-page brochure inlaid from 1938, published by Verlag Haus zum Falken, advertising a book by neo-Kantian philosopher Richard Höningwald — during the early 1920s Norbert Elias’ strict “*Doktorvater*” (≈ ‘supervisor of doctoral thesis’) at the University of Breslau (Wolandt, 1977). Höningwald fled Nazi Germany in 1939.

Then, the unpagged dedication page in each volume of the book discussed here has the same (red) censorship stamp impression as both front covers have (see *Figure 6* and *Figure 8*).

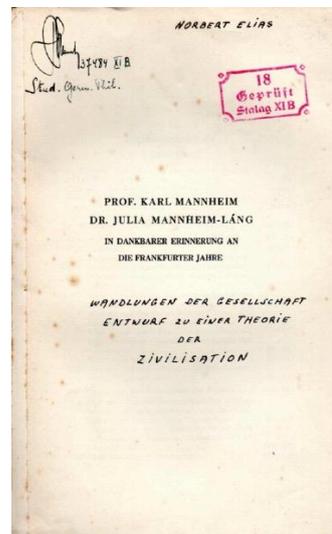
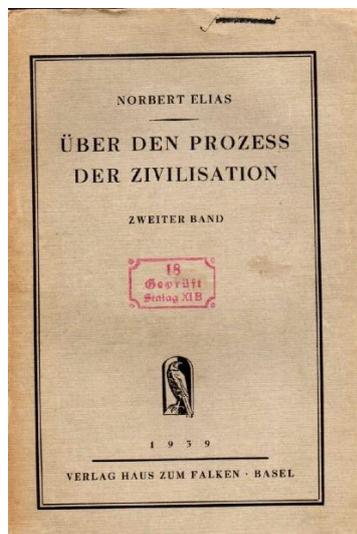
In addition, we can note: a signature; a number ending with “XI B;” the abbreviation “*Stud. Germ. Phil.*” (crossed out by ink or pencil in the first volume), and the (sub)title of the relevant volume — handwritten in capital letters and underlined in the first volume, below the dedication.



**Figure 5: Front cover of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation*, first volume**

(+ a censorship stamp impression and a crossed-out name), discussed here (Elias, 1939a).

**Figure 6: Unpagged dedication page inclusive handwritten texts, a number ending with ‘XI B,’ a censorship stamp impression, and a signature in first volume of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation*, discussed here (Elias, 1939a, unpagged fifth page).**



**Figure 7: Front cover of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation*, second volume**

(+ a censorship stamp impression and a crossed-out name), discussed here (Elias, 1939d).

**Figure 8: Unpagged dedication page inclusive handwritten texts, an author’s name, a number ending in ‘XI B,’ a censorship stamp impression, and a signature in second volume of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation*, discussed here (Elias, 1939d, unpagged fifth page).**

The (identical) signatures in both volumes may belong to the owner at the time, that is, Jozef Veraert. Comparison of these signatures with Veraert’s later signatures at the Section Classified Archives (ADIV-S-CA) of the Belgian Armed Forces in Brussels shows some similarities.

The abbreviation “*Stud. Germ. Phil.*” in both volumes may indicate that the book was *Stammlager XI B* camp approved and intended to be in the owner’s possession for study purposes and possibly to be read and discussed in a study group.

However, the abbreviation “*Stud. Germ. Phil.*” clearly refers to Veraert’s university studies in German philology before World War II — but never completed. Veraert obtained his “Kandidatuur Germaanse filologie” (≈ ‘Bachelor German Philology’) at the Catholic University of Leuven in 1935.

Two years later, in 1937, Veraert became a volunteer with the Belgian 3<sup>rd</sup> Lancers Regiment for three years. Between May 10, 1940, and May 28, 1940, he took part in the “Veldtocht 1940” (= 18 Days’ Campaign). Veraert became a prisoner of war in Belgium on 28 May 1940. From May 30, 1940, he was a prisoner of war in Germany.

The number “37484” ending in “*XI B*” in both volumes of Elias’ book discussed here is Veraert’s “*Gefangenennummer*” (POW number) supplemented by “*XI B*” to designate *Stammlager XI B* (see *Note 3* and *Note 4*).

Although many POWs were registered to *Stammlager XI B*, they did not actually live at *Stammlager XI B*. They lived and worked elsewhere. They were assigned to a “*Arbeitskommando*” (≈ ‘work group’) in a sub-camp, a ‘labor camp,’ in the Heidekreis district area surrounding Bad Fallingbostal. These POWs worked in agriculture, factories, and forestry. Between 1939 and 1945, approximately one hundred thousand POWs were registered to *Stammlager XI B* and its sub-camps. Surviving *Stammlager XI B* POWs were liberated in April 1945 (see *Note 3*).

Veraert’s captivity of war officially ended on May 8, 1945.

## Supposition

It is noteworthy that the copy of Norbert Elias’s two-volume book *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* discussed above passed the *Stammlager XI B* camp censorship department with “18 Geprüft *Stalag XI B*” censorship stamp impressions and all, while in Nazi German society books by Jewish authors and books that were not acceptable to the Nazis were banned, banished, and even burned. From the above it appears that it was possible that the censorship department of *Stammlager XI B* allowed a prisoner of war to possess a book for general study purposes in the camp, a book that should not exist in Nazi Germany.

We know next to nothing about the political ideas, humanity, will, power, ability to disobey orders, *etc.*, of members of the *Stammlager XI B* censorship department, about the interdependencies that existed between them, the camp leadership, and prisoners of war, and about interdependencies of *Stammlager XI B* prisoners of war and German civilians outside the camp and its sub-camps.

Furthermore, the copy of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* discussed here was perhaps the only one to exist in Nazi Germany — in a prisoner of war camp of all places!

Thanks to Jozef Veraert’s interest in and study of German philology, we now have evidence that a copy of Norbert Elias’ exiled two-volume book *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation*, approved by the Nazi German camp authorities at *Stammlager XI B*, existed between 1940 and 1945 in Nazi Germany.

Truly a book that could not.

## Notes

1. The publisher did not distribute many review copies of Elias’ book, most to humanities journals, some to newspapers. In 1939, for example, the Swiss newspaper *Der Bund* (1939ab) reported the receipt of the first volume (on June 3, page 10) and the second volume (on August 17, page 3) but did not review Elias’s work.

On the other hand, the Swiss newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (1939ab) reported the reception of the first volume (on June 17, page 30) and the second volume (on August 19, page 18) and published a review of Elias’s work a few months later, on November 12 (P. A. S., 1939; see section *iii* below).

A mere fifteen reviews of the book appeared between 1938 and 1945, in just five countries (England, France, The Netherlands, Switzerland, USA) — *none* in Nazi Germany:

*i.* Reviews of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* published in Great Britain, 1938-1945.

Norbert Elias’ friend psychoanalyst Siegmund Heinrich Fuchs, who later changed his surname to Foulkes, published a review of the 1937 preprint (“*Vorabdruck*”) of the first volume of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* in the April 1938 *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis* (Fuchs, 1938). Elias probably handed over a copy of the 1937

preprint to Fuchs. At the time, he gave or sent copies of the preprint to various people. For example, it is certain that he sent Sigmund Freud a copy of the 1937 preprint (Eissler, 1979) — inscribed by him in German (Elias, 1937b; see *Figure 9*): “Prof. Sigmund Freud Mit dem Ausdruck seiner Verehrung Zugeeignet von Norbert Elias” (‘Prof. Sigmund Freud With the expression of his admiration Dedicated by Norbert Elias’). Although Freud briefly thanked Elias on a postcard (Waldhoff, 2007), he never wrote a review of Elias’ book.

In 1942, Foulkes (1942; see *Figure 15*) reviewed the second volume of the 1939 edition of the book in the same journal.

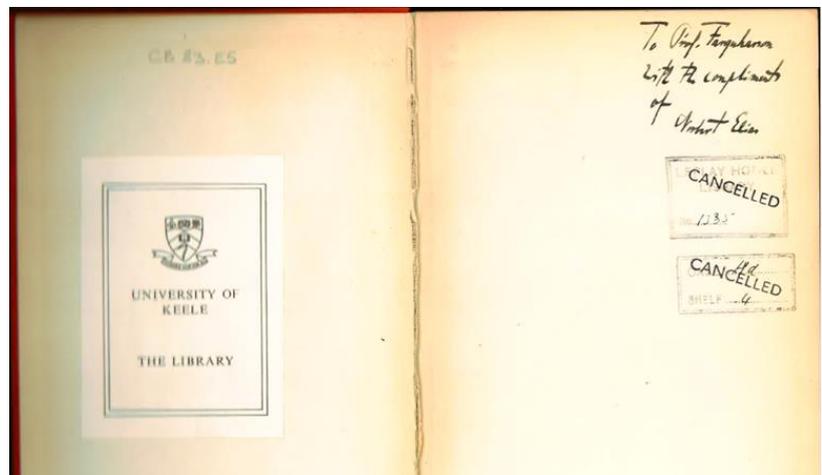
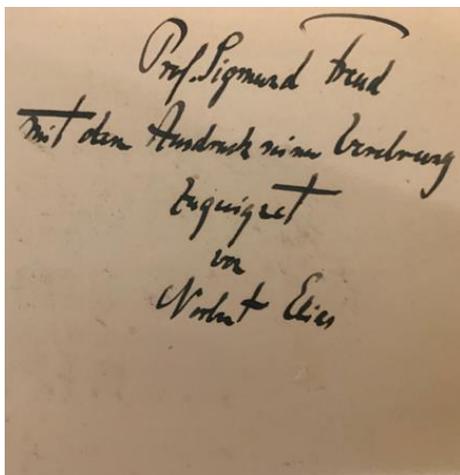
Between 1938 and 1942, the *Zeitschrift für Psychoanalyse und Imago*, an Austrian psycho-analytic journal exiled to London, had already published the texts of the Fuchs/Foulkes reviews of both the 1937 preprint of the first volume (Foulkes, 1939) and the 1939 edition of the second volume (Foulkes (Fuchs), 1941; see *Figure 14*) of his friend’s book in German translation.

In April 1938 the *Sociological Review* (1938) reported receipt of a review copy of the preprint of the first volume of Elias’ book: “Elias (N.). Über den Prozess der Zivilisation. Schulze, Germany.” This copy was almost certainly the one sent by Norbert Elias to the editor of the *Sociological Review* Alexander Farquharson — with the dedication, “To Prof. Farquharson with the compliments of Norbert Elias” (Elias, 1937a; see *Figure 10*). Austrian socialist, researcher and writer Franz Borkenau (1938) most probably used the copy for his 1938 book review of the 1937 preprint of the first volume of Elias’s work in the July 1938 issue of the *Sociological Review*. He, also, stated the book was published by “Schulze” in Germany — in 1937 (Borkenau, 1938, p. 308). Borkenau (1939) would publish a review of the second volume of the 1939 edition of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* in the same journal a year later.

**ii. Reviews of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* published in the Netherlands, 1938-1945.**

The first Dutch review of the 1939 edition of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* — by the Dutch literary editor of the newspaper *Het Vaderland* Menno ter Braak (1939) — appeared before the outbreak of the Second World War. Four days after the occupation of the Netherlands by Nazi Germany, in May 1940, ter Braak committed suicide. The book review was reprinted *immediately* after World War II (ter Braak, 1945, pp. 134-142). Three other Dutch reviews of the 1939 edition of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* appeared during the war:

- in 1941 in *Mensch en Maatschappij* (Bonger, 1940);
- in 1941 in *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* (Bouman, 1941; see *Figure 11*);
- in 1942 in *Mens en Maatschappij* (Wisse, 1942).



**Figure 9: Norbert Elias’ inscription in the preprint of the first volume of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* (Elias, 1937b) sent to Sigmund Freud in Vienna, Austria. (Sigmund Freud Collection, Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.).**

**Figure 10: Norbert Elias’ inscription in the preprint of the first volume of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* (Elias, 1937a) sent to Alexander Farquharson, editor of the *Sociological Review*, who placed it in the library of the Le Play House company. (University of Keele Library, Keele, UK).**

**iii. Reviews of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* published in Switzerland, 1938-1945.**

In Switzerland, Eugen Curti (1942) discussed both 1939 volumes of Elias’ book in the April 1942 issue of *Schweizer Monatshefte* (see *Figure 13*).

Reviews of both 1939 volumes also appeared in 1939

- in the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, a Zürich newspaper (P. A. S., 1939);
- in the *Basler National-Zeitung*, a Basel newspaper (Kärger, 1977; Korte, 2017, p. 2).

iv. Reviews of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* published in France, 1938-1945.

In France, apparently, only Raymond Aron (A. R., 1941; see *Figure 12*) published a review — of the first 1939 volume of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* — in the 1941 *Annales Sociologiques* (see Joly, 2011).

v. Reviews of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* published in the US, 1938-1945.

Howard Becker (1940) discussed both 1939 volumes of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* in the October 1940 issue of the *American Historical Review*.

In a letter dated September 9, 1938, to Ernest Manheim in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, Elias hinted that he might leave London for the United States, the trip possibly paid for by the Woburn House where he was staying at the time. He complained that the few Americans he had sent copies of the preprint of the first volume (including Louis/Alois Wirth of the University of Chicago) had not replied (note that the Louis Wirth Papers at the University of Chicago contain no correspondence from Elias). Elias went on to say that he had included Fuchs' 1938 book review and that another review had appeared in the *Sociological Review* (= Borkenau, 1938).

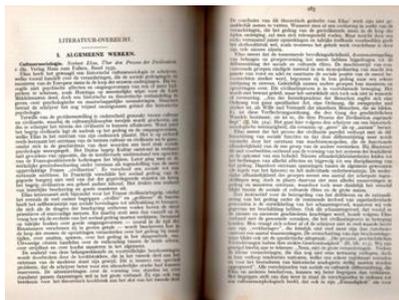


Figure 11: First pages of book review of the 1939 edition of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* in the 1941 *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* (Bouman, 1941).



Figure 12: First pages of book review of the 1939 edition of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* in the 1941 *Annales Sociologiques* (R. A., 1941).

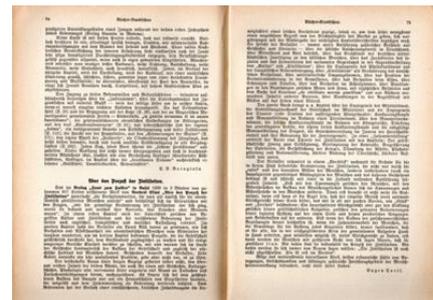


Figure 13: Book review of the 1939 edition of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* in the 1942 *Schweizer Monatshefte* (Curti, 1942).

Elias also asked Manheim if he had browsed the book and if he liked it. Since he then asked Manheim if there would be a book review in the *American Journal of Sociology*, we may infer that he had sent a copy to Ernest Manheim for review in the *American Journal of Sociology*.

Manheim never wrote a review of Elias' book. Indeed, there were no book reviews of the 1937 preprint of Elias's work in the US (see: [http://agso.uni-graz.at/manheim/en/8\\_down/dlfiles/elias.pdf](http://agso.uni-graz.at/manheim/en/8_down/dlfiles/elias.pdf)).



Figure 14: First page of book review of the second volume of the 1939 edition of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* in the 1941 *Internationale Zeitschrift für Psychoanalyse und Imago* (Foulkes (Fuchs), 1941).

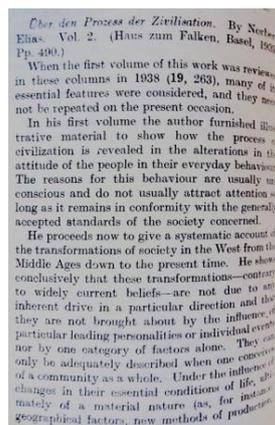


Figure 15: First part of book review of the second volume of the 1939 edition of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* in the 1942 *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis* (Foulkes, 1942).

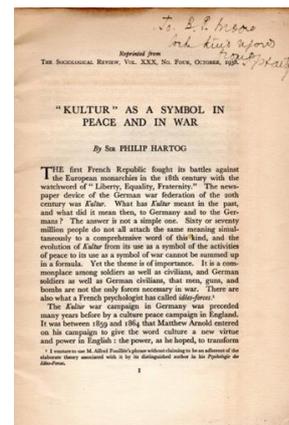


Figure 16: First page in "Kultur" as a Symbol in Peace and in War (Hartog, 1938b; see *Note 1*). (Jeroen Staring Collection).

The very first reference to Elias' *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* (except for both book reviews of the 1937 preprint of the first volume, by Fuchs in April 1938, and by Borkenau in July 1938; see above), but not mentioned in

the ‘Elias literature’ as far as the author of this miniature case study knows, is probably in Philip Hartog’s (1938a, p. 345) essay “Kultur” as a Symbol in Peace and in War that appeared in the October 1938 *Sociological Review*, and in a reprint of Hartog’s essay, published that same year by The Le Play House Press that also published the *Sociological Review*: “Finally, I owe one characteristic passage from Kant bearing directly on my main thesis, to Dr. Norbert Elias’ *Ueber den Prozess der Zivilisation* (to be published by Academia, Prague), Vol. 1, p. 8” (Hartog, 1938b, p. 29; see *Figure 16*). We can therefore infer that Hartog had read or seen the copy of the first volume of the 1937 preprint of Elias’ book that Elias sent to the editor of the *Sociological Review* (= Alexander Farquharson; see above) who placed it on the shelves of the library of the Le Play House company that both published the *Sociological Review* and ran The Le Play House Press. Today, the University of Keele library owns the Le Play House library (see *Figure 10*).

It is not known how many copies of *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation* were sold in Nazi Germany during the war years 1939-1945, but it is conceivable that only a handful of copies of the book were sold, perhaps even none.

2. The author of this miniature case study first met Norbert Elias after his public lecture, entitled “*Traditie en Tegencultuur*” (≈ ‘*Tradition and Counterculture*’), in Paradiso, Amsterdam, The Netherlands on December 20, 1981 (Staring, 1982). His interest in Figural Sociology has persisted — especially with regard to the Eliasian concept of ‘*homo clausus*’ (e.g., Staring, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1995). His first dissertation also pays attention to the work of Elias (Staring, 2005). His view differs from Andreas Wehowsky’s (1976, 1977, 1978) who also focused on the history of ‘*homo clausus* self-experiences’ but did not develop an idea of their ‘physiogenesis.’

3. When this miniature case study was written in 2021/2022, there were many postcards for sale on *eBay.com* that would have been sent during World War II by prisoners of war in *Stammlager XI B* and other Nazi German POW camps. Several *eBay.com* sellers offered more than one postcard.

It can be inferred that the postcards possibly never reached the addressees, but somehow went on sale long after the end of World War II. *Figure 17* shows an example — a postcard written on April 20, 1941, by Georges Wansaert, *Stammlager XI B* POW (camp) number 97,123, “*Arbeitskommando*” 738, to an addressee in Waudrez-les-Binche, Belgium. The postcard’s postmark reads April 24, 1941, and a censorship stamp print reads “3 Gepriüft *Stalag XI B*.” The postcard gives a good idea of the bureaucracy surrounding prisoners of war in camps in Nazi Germany and what (also?) happened to postcards that prisoners of war in *Stammlager XI B* wrote to their loved ones.



**Figure 17: *Stalag XI B* postcard, postmark April 24, 1941. *Stammlager XI B* prisoner of war ‘Georges Wansaert’ with registration number 97,123, who wrote the postcard. (Jeroen Staring Collection).**



**Figure 18: Part of a drawing by war artist Captain Bryan de Grineau showing prisoners of war in *Stammlager XI B* after their liberation on April 16, 1945 (*Illustrated London News*, 1945, p. 459).**

That the rights of prisoners of war have been violated in *Stammlager XI B* and that their mail has been intercepted is (also) apparent from a drawing with caption in the *Illustrated London News* of 28 April 1945, in which attention was paid, among other things, to the liberation of *Stammlager XI B* two weeks earlier (see *Figure 18*). The caption below the drawing reads, “After the liberation: British and American ex-prisoners, freed by the second British Army, getting their first good meal for years. Herded in a barrack room in conditions of indescribable squalor, they are feeding from Red Cross parcels found unopened in the camp” (*Illustrated London News*, 1945, p. 459).

4. The bookseller who sold the book to the author of this miniature case study had not received any information about the work's provenance from the person from whom he bought both volumes several years ago. His own (internet) research led him to a website that refers to a Belgian cemetery (personal e-mail to author of this miniature case study; February 1, 2022). A photograph of a headstone in the Boechout cemetery near Antwerp, Belgium, shows the grave of a Belgian military officer named Jozef Veraert. The text (in Dutch) on the headstone reads, “*Kapitein Kommandant Jozef Veraert 1915-1967 Echtgenoot van Maria Sebrechts*” (‘Captain Commander Jozef Veraert 1915-1967 Husband of Maria Sebrechts’). See: <https://nl.geneanet.org/kerkhof/view/7430053/persons/>.

The author of this miniature case study was able to ascertain that Jozef Veraert did indeed own both volumes of Elias’ 1939 book discussed here during World War II and took them home with him after the war.

It was confirmed by the head of the Section Classified Archives (ADIV-S-CA) of the Belgian Armed Forces that Belgian military officer Joseph Emile Albert Veraert, born on May 12, 1915, in Beerse, near Turnhout, Belgium, had been a prisoner of war in *Stammlager XI B* during WWII, POW number 37,484 (personal e-mail to author of this miniature case study; March 15, 2022).

Further research by the author of this case study at the Section Classified Archives (ADIV-S-CA) of the Belgian Armed Forces in Brussels shows that Veraert in 1957 was promoted to Captain Commander; that he was married to Maria Sebrechts; that he lived his final years in Boechout; and that he retired in 1966.

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