Subject: Katie Streseman

We met Katie Streseman, the widow of the former Chancellor Gustave Streseman, shortly after we arrived in Berlin in 1930. She was living in a comfortable apartment and as her husband had left her in very precarious financial circumstances, friends and admirers of the former Chancellor and who recognized the services which they believed he had performed for his country, made an arrangement for a fund on the interest of which she would be able to live comfortably.

We saw her and her two sons frequently in her home and in ours. I had heard from friends before we came to Berlin that she was an extraordinarily intelligent woman and that she had been most helpful to her husband as Chancellor. It was after we got to know her that I realized how intelligent she really was and what a very profound knowledge she had of the German situation. One of the pleasant memories we have of our stay in Berlin in those difficult times was the friendship and association we had with her. When the Nazis came into power it was of course necessary for her to leave the country, for as Jews she and her two sons would have been subject to a serious molestation, particularly because of the position which her husband had held and the esteem which so many still right thinking people in Germany had of the man whom they considered a great Chancellor.