

## **Abstract**

Dr. Heinrich Spiero (1876-1947) and his undertaking for the Christians of Jewish heritage during the NS Regime

from Anna Rohr

This dissertation considers the life and undertakings of the literalist and writer Dr. Heinrich Spiero. After the takeover of power by the National Socialists, Spiero suffered a "Berufsverbot" or ban on practicing his profession. As per the race ideology of the Nazis, Heinrich Spiero was regarded as a Jew, regardless of his Christening.

The majority of the Christian churches did not see their task in helping Christians of Jewish heritage, therefore, the "*Reichsverband christlich-judischer Staatsbürger nichtarischer oder nicht rein arischer Abstammung*" was founded in July 1933, which was renamed to the Paulus-Bund in September 1936. It served as a lobby group and self-help organization.

In September 1935, Dr. Spiero took on the Chairmanship of the "*Reichsverband*", and worked tirelessly for the goals of the organization in the following 18 months. In March 1937 he had to relinquish his role as Chairman due to his classification as a Jew. He was still able to open a private help organization, the so-called Office of Dr. Heinrich Spiero, which he used to keep helping Christians of Jewish heritage. In July 1939, this office was closed and the activities transferred to the "Büro Pfarrer Gruber", which had been established in 1938.

In addition to the research of Spiero's Biography, a further theme of this dissertation is the attempts at assertiveness of non-Arian Christians during the NS Regime. To do this, this work uses an extensive selection of sources, the foremost one being the private archive of Heinrich Spiero. Furthermore other sources of data of various origins have been used in this work and they allow a differentiated, multi perspective approach of the events which have been re-construed.