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Basic biographical data	
Name:	**Anton Grylewicz**
Other names (by-names, pseud. etc.):	**A.Z. ; Gr. ; Anton Grilevich ; Anton Zeman(n)**
Date and place of birth:	**January 8, 1885, Berlin (Germany)**
Date and place of death:	**August 2, 1971, Berlin, West (Germany)**
Nationality:	**German**
Occupations, careers:	**metalworker, joiner, party secretary and politician**
Time of activity in Trotskyist movement:	**1927 - ca. 1937 (held Trotskyist positions until his death)**

Biographical sketch

Anton Grylewicz was born on January 8, 1885 in Berlin into a working class family, attended primary school there and completed an apprenticeship as locksmith. He earned his living in Berlin as locksmith and metalworker. In his later emigrant years, he worked as a joiner.
1912 Grylewicz married Anna-Maria Bräuer (b. Jan. 1, 1891, Berlin, d. Nov. 28, 1970, Berlin).
From 1907 to 1909 Grylewicz did his military service, was called up for active duty in 1915 and spent more than two years at the eastern front before returning to Berlin due to a war injury.
Grylewicz, who in 1912 had become a member of the *SPD (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands, Social-Democratic Party of Germany)*, in 1917 joined the ranks of the *USPD (Unabhängige Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands, Independent Social-Democratic Party of Germany)* and between 1918 and 1920 was one of its local leadership cadres in Berlin. In the preparations for the German November revolution in 1918, Grylewicz played an active role as a leader of the *Revolutionäre Obleute (Revolutionary Stewards,* a radical and influential Berlin metal-workers' association). In January 1919 he took also part in the armed struggles between the revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries in the streets of Berlin acting in those days as one of the deputies of the Berlin chief constable Emil Eichhorn who stood on the side of the revolutionary forces.
In December 1920, Grylewicz took part in the *USPD-KPD* unification congress and became a member of the *VKPD (Vereinigte Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands, United Communist Party of Germany)* which was renamed *KPD (Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands, Communist Party of Germany)* short time later. In the *KPD*, Grylewicz performed the function of an organization secretary until 1924 for the party district of Berlin-Brandenburg and additionally was head of the organization department of

the *ZK (Zentralkomitee, Central Committee)* of the *KPD* in 1924.
In 1923 Grylewicz became involved in Moscow in the preparations of what was called the "German October". After in 1924 he was detained for trial for several months, he was accused and at first sentenced in 1925 in the context of the so-called Maslow trial in front of the *Reichsgericht (Empire Court)*, however, granted amnesty at the end.
Besides his activities as a party worker, Anton Grylewicz hold parliamentary mandates and offices for several years: from 1920 to 1924 he was municipal deputy in Berlin-Neukölln and from 1921 to 1924 honorary municipal councillor. From May 4 until October 20, 1924 he was member of the *Reichstag (Diet of the Realm)* for the *KPD* (elected in the constituency Potsdam III), and from December 1924 to 1928 he was a member of the *Preußische Landtag (Prussian Diet)*.
Inside the KPD, which in the 1920s was trembled by strong factional and power struggles, Grylewicz who had moved up into the *ZK*, joined the left faction headed by Ruth Fischer and Arkadij Maslow who were deprived of power in 1925. As a representative of the party's left wing, Grylewicz soon was excluded from the *ZK* and in 1926 joined the ranks of the *Linke Opposition der KPD (Left Opposition of the KPD).* After he acted as a delegate at the 11th party convention speaking for the *Left Opposition* – together with Wolfgang Bartels and Paul Schlecht – he was promptly excluded from the *KPD* on April 1, 1927. Nevertheless he hold his seat in the *Prussian Diet* until the end of the legislature and became the spokesman of the small group of left oppositionists there.
In 1928, Grylewicz was a co-founder of the *Leninbund (Lenin League)*, which integrated many adherents of the Russian Joint Opposition (Zinovievists and Trotskyists) meanwhile purged from the *KPD*. Within the *Leninbund*, Grylewicz belonged as *Reichsorganisationsleiter (head of the organization department)* to one of the top figures.
But also the *Leninbund* soon was shaken by fierce factional controversies between the majority, led by Hugo Urbahns (an adherent of Zinoviev), and a minority tendency advocating the positions held by Trotsky. Grylewicz became a spokesman of the Trotskyist minority which in early 1930 was excluded from the *Leninbund*. In March 1930 the minority tendency under his leadership joined forces with the *Weddinger*[1] *Opposition* and with other pro-Trotsky left oppositionists to form the *Vereinigte Linke Opposition der KPD (VLO, United Left Opposition of the KPD)*, the first 'pure' Trotskyist' organization in Germany.
Right from the start, Grylewicz belonged to the *Reichsleitung* (national leadership) and thus to the central figures of the new organization. His influence even grew after a faction led by Kurt Landau left the *VLO* in mid-1931. The *VLO* renamed to *LO (Linke Opposition der KPD – Bolschewiki-Leninisten, Left Opposition of the KPD – Bolshevik-Leninists)* and was affiliated to Trotsky's *International Left Opposition (ILO).* Landau's group, however, used the same denomination but stood outside the international Trotskyist mainstream. Whereas the Landau *LO* continued to issue *Der Kommunist* – formerly the paper of the *VLO* – the Grylewicz *LO* launched a new organ, *Permanente Revolution*, edited and published by Grylewicz himself.
Additionally, Grylewicz' pre-eminence in those days focused on publishing quite a lot of Trotsky's writings in German language (particularly those pamphlets dealing with his severe warnings against the dangers of fascism) as well as on the appearance of Trotsky's Russian-language mouthpiece *Biulleten' oppozitsii*. Thus Grylewicz gained great reputation for widely propagating and circulating Trotsky's ideas and analyses. In parentheses it should be mentioned that due to the Great Depression Grylewicz became jobless and had to live on very poor unemployment benefits.
After the seizure of power by the Nazis in 1933, Grylewicz' home and private library were destroyed by *SA (Sturmabteilungen, storm troopers)* mob, while Grylewicz himself was escaping the custody or even worse concentration camp by flight to Czechoslovakia. In 1933 he lived in Reichenberg, since 1934 in Prague. His wife, being under arrest in Germany until May 1933, could immigrate to Czecho-

1) Wedding = a local district (borough) of Berlin, in the 1920s and early 1930s was a stronghold of the *KPD* (e.g. in the November 1932 *Reichstag* elections, the *KPD* got 47.1% of the vote in this borough) as well as of the left oppositional tendencies expelled from the *KPD* since 1926. Another left oppositional group which had its stronghold in the Palatinate was closely associated with the *Wedding Opposition*.

slovakia only in July 1933.
Grylewicz did neither join the *Auslandskomitee (Foreign Committee)* of the *IKD (Internationale Kommunisten Deutschlands, International Communists of Germany)*[2] – as did most of the exiled former leaders of the German Trotskyist organization – nor did he hold any leading positions, nor did he became a member of any other emigrants' organization. In 1937 he obviously ceased any political activities; the last documents to be found in the *Trotsky Archives* at Houghton Library (Cambridge, Mass.) and in the *Hoover Institution Archives* (Stanford, Cal.)[3] wearing his name were dated Summer 1937.
In 1937, too, Grylewicz became a victim of a devilish plot engineered by Soviet secret service men, obviously with the objective to perform a 'Moscow trial' in Prague; detained for trial by the Czech authorities from July to November and charged of espionage, he finally was acquitted.
At the end of 1937, Grylewicz withdrew to France where he lived for a longer period without residence permit before he was detained at the outbreak of World War II. At the end of 1941 he succeeded to leave Vichy-France with a visa to Cuba, where he lived until 1955 earning his living with joinery works.
The years of illegality, the repeated flight and the more than two years lasting internment left deep traces on Grylewicz, particularly his health was badly attacked. Though he had stopped all significant political activities for the last 35 years of his life, Grylewicz remained, expressing after own, a lifelong convinced Trotskyist. In 1955 he followed his wife back to Berlin (West), was repatriated[4] and entered the *SPD (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands, Social-Democratic Party of Germany)*. Isolated, seriously ill and disregarded, he died well advanced in years on August 2, 1971 in Berlin, a few months after the decease of his wife and lifelong companion.

Selective bibliography [5]

- ***Selective Bibliography: Journals (co-)edited or published by Grylewicz***

Biulleten' Oppozitsii (Bol'sheviki-Lenintsev) <TSB 0102>
Internationales Bulletin der Kommunistischen Links-Opposition (Paris; later: Berlin) <TSB 0758>
Der Kommunist : Zeitschrift der Vereinigten Linken Opposition der K.P.D. (Berlin) <TSB 0846>
Permanente Revolution : Zeitschrift der Linken Opposition der KPD (Bolschewiki-Leninisten) (Berlin) <TSB 1192>

2) After Leon Trotsky had abandoned - in view of the unparalleled defeat of the KPD and of the entire German workers' movement in January 1933 - the hitherto orientation toward a reform of the Comintern and instead of this had begun to propagate the construction of new communist parties and of a new, Fourth, International in 1933, the *LO (Linke Opposition der KPD (Bolschewiki-Leninisten)* was renamed *IKD (Internationale Kommunisten Deutschlands, Deutsche Sektion der Internationalen Kommunistischen Liga , International Communists of Germany, Section of the International Communist League*, the name adopted by the former *International Left Opposition*. In 1933 the IKD still had several hundred militants in fascist Germany, organized in small local grouplets and cells and acting as underground resistance groups while some dozen more or less prominent German Trotskyists had to flee Germany in early 1933 in order to escape from fascist persecution. Thus there were *IKD* emigrant groups in Paris, Prague, Reichenberg, Copenhagen, Antwerp, Stockholm, Oslo, and Zurich; the leading body of *IKD* was called *Auslandskomitee (Foreign Committee)* which had its headquarters in Paris until 1939 and which main functions were the liaison work between the IKD and the international bodies of the Trotskyist movement, the co-ordination of the illegal work of the underground *IKD* groups in Germany and the production and circulation of newsletters and bulletins.

3) See also the paragraph '*Sidelines*' below.

4) In August 1939 Grylewicz and his wife had been expatriated by Nazi-German authorities.

5) TSB item numbers (e.g. <TSB 0716>) refer to Lubitz' *Trotskyist Serials Bibliography*, München [etc.] : Saur, 1993, which is out of print but available as PDF file within the framework of *TrotskyanaNet*. In TSB you can find detailed descriptions concerning the respective Trotskyist journals, newsletters, bulletins and the like.

- ***Selective Bibliography: Books of Leon Trotsky published by Grylewicz' publishing house***

Note: Anton Grylewicz ran a small **publishing house** at Berlin; thus his name can be found in the imprint of several German language books, pamphlets and brochures by **Leon Trotsky** issued in the late 1920s and early 1930s on behalf of the *Left Opposition*. Typically, those publications on the title page gave the information "Herausgeber: Linke Opposition der KPD" while at the end of the brochures there was mention of "Verleger u. verantwortlich: A. Grylewicz. Berlin-Neukölln, Brusendorferstraße 23. Energiadruck, Berlin SW 61, Gitschiner Str. 91". The total printrun of those minor writings of Trotsky published by Grylewicz (some of Trotsky's major works such as *Mein Leben* or *Geschichte der russischen Revolution,* however, were issued by other - bourgeois - publishing houses) was at least 75.000 copies. The weekly paper *Permanente Revolution* had a print-run of some 5,000 copies as at Summer 1932.
Here's a listing, in alphabetical order, of **Trotsky's writings published by A. Grylewicz** during the final years of the Weimar Republic. It should be mentioned, too, that Trotsky's Russian language mouthpiece, the famous *Biulleten' oppozitsii*, from no. 20 (Apr. 1931) to no. 32 (Dec. 1932) also was published by Grylewicz before the editorial board had to move to Paris when the fascists gained power in Germany in January 1933.
The author statement "Leo Trotzki" has of course been omitted from the following listing; with regard to the page numbering, the factual number of pages is given.

- Der einzige Weg.- 1932 - 63 pp.
- Gegen den Nationalkommunismus : Lehren des "roten" Volksentscheids. Über Arbeiterkontrolle der Produktion : Brief an Genossen. - 1931. - 36 pp.
  —. 2. Aufl. - 1932. - 24 pp.
  —. 3. Aufl. - 1932. - 24 pp.
- Probleme der Entwicklung der USSR : (Plattformentwurf der Internationalen Linksopposition zur russischen Frage). - 1931. - 31 pp.
- Soll der Faschismus wirklich siegen? : Deutschland - der Schlüssel zur internationalen Lage. - 1931. - 15 pp.
- Soll der Faschismus wirklich siegen? Wie wird der Nationalsozialismus geschlagen? - 2. Aufl. - 1932. - 24 pp.
  —. 3. Aufl. - 1932. - 24 pp.
- Sowjetwirtschaft in Gefahr : vor dem zweiten Fünfjahresplan. Die Stalinisten ergreifen Maßnahmen zum Ausschluß Sinowjews, Kamenews u.a. - 1932. - 40 pp.
- Die spanische Revolution und die ihr drohenden Gefahren. - 1931. - 33 pp.
- Die Verteidigung der Sowjetrepublik und die Opposition : die Ultralinken und der Marxismus. - 1929. - 40 pp.
- Was nun? : Schicksalsfragen des deutschen Proletariats. - 1932. - 116 pp.
- Wie wird der Nationalsozialismus geschlagen? : Arbeiter-Einheitsfront gegen den Faschismus. - 1932. - 16 pp.
  —. [Another ed.] - 1932. - 16 pp.

- ***Selective Bibliography: Books, collections, journals, bulletins to which Grylewicz contributed***

Biulleten' Oppozitsii (Bol'shevikov-Lenintsev) (Various places) <TSB 0102>
Bulletin de la Ligue des Communistes-Internationalistes (Bolcheviks-Léninistes) (Amsterdam) <TSB 0178>
Bulletin international de l'Opposition Communiste de Gauche = Internationales Bulletin der Kommunistischen Links-Opposition (Paris) <TSB 0234>
Cahiers Léon Trotsky (Various places) [ISSN 0181-0790] <TSB 0277>
International Bulletin of the Communist Left Opposition (New York, NY) <TSB 0678>
Internationales Bulletin der Kommunistischen Links-Opposition (Paris; later: Berlin) <TSB 0758>
Permanente Revolution : Zeitschrift der Linken Opposition der KPD (Bolschewiki-Leninisten) (Berlin) <TSB 1192>
De Rode October (Amsterdam) <TSB 1407>

- ***Selective Bibliography: Books and articles about Grylewicz***

[Anon.]: Anton Grylewicz. [Biographical sketch, Wikipedia article]
[Anon.]: [Biographical sketch], in: *Handbuch für den Preußischen Landtag / hrsg. vom Büro des Preußischen Landtags*, 2. Wahlperiode, Berlin, 1925, p. 262.

[Anon.]: [Biographical sketch], in: *Biographisches Handbuch der deutschsprachigen Emigration nach 1933 / Red.: Sybille Claus und Beatrix Schmidt,* Bd. 1, München [etc.], 1980, p. 251.

Broué, Pierre: [Biographical sketch], in: *Dictionnaire biographique du mouvement ouvrier international : L'Allemagne / sous la dir. de Jacques Droz*, Paris, 1990, p. 211.

Broué, Pierre: Procès manqué à Prague : l'affaire Grylewicz, in: *Cahiers Léon Trotsky* <TSB 0277>, 1979 (3), pp. 141-146.

Schüle, Annegret: [Biographical sketch], in: *Schüle, Annegret: Trotzkismus in Deutschland bis 1933,* Köln, 1989, pp. 150-151.

Stobnicer, Maurice: [Biographical sketch], in: *Stobnicer, Maurice: Le mouvement trotskyste allemand sous la République de Weimar,* Thèse, Paris, Univ. de Paris VIII, 1980, p. 356.

Weber, Hermann: [Biographical sketch], in: *Weber, Hermann: Die Wandlung des deutschen Kommunismus : die Stalinisierung der KPD in der Weimarer Republik*, Bd. 2, Frankfurt a.M., 1969, pp. 145-146.

Weber, Hermann: [Biographical sketch] / Hermann Weber, Andreas Herbst, in: *Weber, Hermann und Andreas Herbst: Deutsche Kommunisten : biographisches Handbuch 1918 bis 1945,* Berlin, 2004, pp. 273-274.

Wulff, Sylvia: Anton Grylewicz und seine Rolle in der deutschen Arbeiterbewegung. - 105 pp.
Köln, Staatl. Prüfungsamt für Erste Staatsprüfungen für Lehrämter an Schulen, Staatsexamensarbeit, 1985.
[Announced as book publication with title "Er war und blieb ein typischer deutscher Arbeiter.." in 1989, but according to a memo from the author factually never published]

Note: More information about Grylewicz is likely to be found in some of the books, pamphlets, university works, and articles listed in the relevant chapters of our *Lubitz' Leon Trotsky Bibliography [ISSN 2190-0183]*, e.g. in chapter 7.5.08.

Notes on archives

Several dozen original documents (chiefly Grylewicz's correspondence with Leon Trotsky, Lev Sedov and the *International Secretariat of the International Left Opposition* and its successors are to be found in the *Exile papers of Leon Trotsky* (bMS Russian 13.1) at *Houghton Library, Harvard University*, Cambridge, Mass., and in the *Trotsky-Sedov Papers (sseries 231 of the Boris I. Nicolaevsky Collection* in the *Hoover Institution Archives*, Stanford, Cal.[6]

Note: The photograph on p.1 has been taken from Weber, Hermann: Die Wandlung des deutschen Kommunismus, Bd. 2, Frankfurt a.M., 1969, p. 438.

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6) For some further information about public archives housing Trotsky relevant collections see the *Archives : America* and *Archives : Europe* chapters within our *Lubitz' TrotskyanaNet* website.