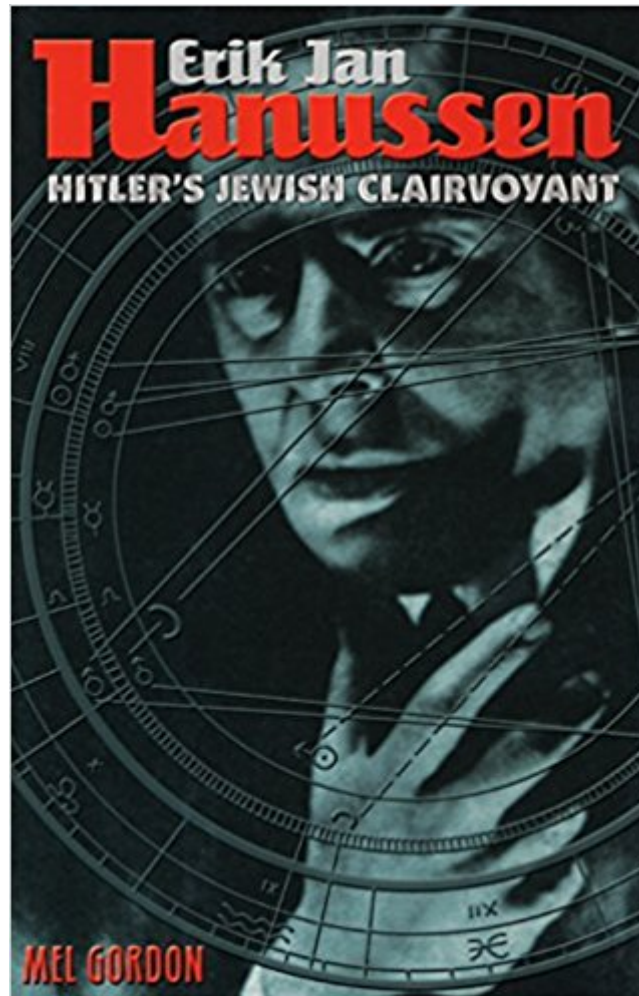




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Erik Jan Hanussen: Hitler's Jewish Clairvoyant



Synopsis

The first victim of the Holocaust also supported the Third Reich.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Erik Jan Hanussen psychic, hypnotist, astrologer, amateur detective and publisher of tabloids was born Herschmann-Chaim Steinschneider in 1889 in a Viennese jail cell and murdered in Berlin in 1933 on the orders of SA officers who owed him money. His remarkable life is the subject of Berkeley professor Mel Gordon's Erik Jan Hanussen: Hitler's Jewish Clairvoyant, a fascinating account of Hanussen's many activities, many names and many lovers, supplemented by excerpts from Hanussen's writings and scores of illustrations (publicity posters, Hitler's astrological chart and advertisements for Hanussen's Sex Creme, for example). Hanussen's association with Hitler, which began when he predicted the future fehrer would rule Germany, was very brief, but Gordon does a good job of exploring this baffling alliance. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Gordon (theater arts, Berkeley) provides a detailed reconstruction of the career of the shadowy figure Erik Jan Hanussen. An Austrian Jew who went through several stage names during his adult life, Hanussen is chiefly remembered as the clairvoyant who held s ances for Hitler and who was murdered by the Nazis in 1933. Gordon has assembled an impressive amount of material reconstructing not only the details of Hanussen's life but also how he marketed himself as a magician, psychic, and occultist. In the process, the reader learns a great deal about the underworld of central European carnivals, magic stage shows, and in particular the spiritualism that gained

prominence after the Great War. Although his reconstruction of Hanussen's life is impressive, Gordon is on less firm ground historically, making several small errors (e.g., he refers to the Hapsburgs as the "Duo-Monarchy"). In addition, his thesis that Hitler was unelectable in 1932 until Hanussen's involvement changed the course of history is one few historians are likely to back. Recommended with reservations for public and specialized libraries. Frederic Krome, Jacob Rader Marcus Ctr. of the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

With a title like "Hitler's Jewish Clairvoyant" you would think Hitler's relationship would be a key element in this biography. But AH doesn't appear until the last few chapters, and when he does, most of what is said is speculation. That being said, this is a thorough look at Hanussen's life, if a little oddly written. I also bought "The Nazi Seance" which is more of an overview of Hanussen's life, but having read this book first, I was able to get the gist much more readily than if I hadn't. I recommend reading both in that order to get a well-rounded look at one of the most pathetic figures in history.

Mel Gordon does an comprehensive job of writing about what has become an obscure figure from Weimar Germany, even though he was quite well know at the time. It is as though there were an invisible thread connecting Hanussen and Hitler. Both were charlatans, but brilliant in their deception. I do think it is a bit far fetched to pitch Hanussen as being Hitler's Jewish Clairvoyant. (although I am sure Hanussen would have approved of such fanfare.) He and Hitler's lives intersected only for a brief period, but it was a critical period in Hitler's life. What is most fascinating about Hanussen is that he seems to be genuine even though we know that he faked everything. There is an uncanny quality to his entire life, a kind of weirdly enchanted existence, until, of course, his association with Klingsor, the dark lord proved to be his undoing. Actually I am sure Hanussen would have been one of the Third Reich's earliest victims in any case, even if he and Hitler had never met. It is a story which was only told in tabloids until now. I hope Mel Gordon keeps writing about those strange and kind of kinky little topics that the rest of world tends to ignore. This book is a must for anyone who is fascinated by the occult, both the real and fake variety, or anyone interested in weird historical footnotes, and finally, Hitler buffs will enjoy reading about this little told tale of Hanussen's role in the shaping of the public version of Adolf Hitler.

first of all i have to congratulate mel gordon on his very fine book on erik jan hanussen.well written

and researched. Hanussen was for one man only, himself, that he fooled so many of the German people for such a long time astounds me. Derren Brown has in his t.v. and stage shows demonstrated all of the effects in the book without trying to convince, or make people believe in the occult. Our own Keith Barry debunks people who say they can talk to the dead and has an offer of \$10,000 on each show he does to anyone who can prove they can. I was buried alive, in 1979 for over two hours, (see TONY SADAR HYPNOTIST.) on Google. Nothing is impossible and we are only limited by how we think. Hanussen seemed to give no thought to failure. This book is a great read for anyone who wants an insight to how people can be coerced into doing things. regards, Tony Sadar.

This book was fascinating, well written, and the research was staggeringly impressive. It's also full of all playbills, photos, magazine articles from the period, clippings from Erik Jan Hanussen's "psychic newspaper" -- it's a great read. Why isn't there a Erik Jan Hanussen movie yet?

The right man (Hanussen), born in the right time, to lead a most fascinating and adventurous life. I give a standing ovation to the author, who truly is a master "teller". This is the most compelling book I have ever read, and I do read a lot.

After seeing the movie *The Illusionist* our curiosity was peaked. What a great companion to the movie. Cover to cover it was well written and very engaging. I love the unusual and unique and this book certainly qualifies.

It's amazing the lengths a person will go in order to seem more important and "special" than they really are. Erik Jan Hanussen, a Jew, not only denounced his easily argued Jewish roots and converted to Catholicism, he likewise joined the NAZI party. . . because the highest ranking, most influential of members of said order, liked him and even promoted him; in return he poured donations to the fledgling cult and served as a chief loan source. Then again, he hosted very quietly set "Orgies" alongside his many "Séances" -- demonstrations of his uncanny gifts of Telepathy and Precognition coupled with Hypnosis, not the whole speaking to dead people idea most think of when hearing that word -- "Séance" (a gathering and seating of people). Jan Hanussen was a man torn and tormented; on one hand he has an amazing success story as the abandoned teen that caught-on to the carnival-circus styles of entertainment -- the Side show. He had a natural propensity for Hypnosis and what was known in the day as "Contact Telepathy" (Dowsing) and with little other, managed to literally go from rags to riches. . . several different times in his life, the apex

of which came in the late 1930s as he predicted the uncanny and "outrageous" rise to power of Adolf Hitler and the NAZI Party; how they would be the Saviour of the German people, but simultaneously bring calamity to all of Europe, the crescendo to which being the death of one and all in the upper-echelons of the Reich. Unfortunately the documentations, photos and newspaper accounts on Hanussen are few and far between due to the Reich's attempt to distance itself with the "Hebrew" and, due to certain other events, all of the Occult when it came to public exhibit. Though composed for the general public, every magic enthusiast should read this tome; especially those curious about the world of Mentalism/Psychic Entertainment. The book shows both, the old way (the "right" way) of doing Mentalism alongside the many questionable antics done by the cynics that sought to "expose" Hanussen, attempted to employ with the judicial system. His ultimate decline resulting in vengeance-based betrayal by past associates and foe alike, coupled by Hitler's paranoia when it came to having a Jewish Mystic as his primary counselor and guide. Generally easy to read though it can be a challenge in some areas where the Germanic terms and perspectives come off as a bit "heavy", but I give it a big thumbs up.

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