

Oskar Maria Graf

Writer and Anti-  
fascist from Lake  
Starnberg

Oskar Maria Graf is the region's  
most celebrated writer around Lake  
Starnberg, also known for his chro-

nicles of life in Bavaria. His birthplace, Berg, and his family's experiences provided the material for many of his works. Fascinated by great writers, both classical and contemporary, from a young age, Graf sought refuge in literature to escape the drudgery of working in his parents' bakery. He first achieved literary success in Munich, where he thrived in a circle of fel-

low-artists and socialist activists. Oskar Maria Graf resolutely opposed the Nazis, a stance that cost him his citizenship and livelihood. His books were banned in Germany. Graf sought refuge in Vienna and Brno before ultimately settling in New York, where he remained a staunch anti-fascist and pacifist, advocating for freedom without compromise.

In exile in the US, Oskar Maria Graf cultivated a diverse network of friendships with other émigrés and maintained correspondence with European contacts. He never severed ties with his roots, considering himself a Bavarian in the world who was at home in the German language. It wasn't until 1958 that he revisited his homeland, donning lederhosen as both an emblem of his Bava-

rian identity and a protest against  
the bourgeois society in post-war  
Bavaria.