Presentation given for Outsiders/Insiders in their series on emigres to Britain

Presentation on Henry Nathan, 11th June 2026

Recording on YouTube

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPTRJQtEUs

Insiders/Outsiders is an ongoing celebration of the indelible and pervasive contribution of refugees from Nazi-dominated Europe to British culture.

Dr Gina Pierce, will introduce us to the life and career of successful but still little-known textile manufacturer **Henry Nathan**. Managing director of a firm manufacturing furnishing fabrics in Germany until the 1930s, he was allowed to transfer to London to escape the rise of the Nazi party, and in the postwar period to set up in business on his own.

When Gina encountered his fabrics during her research into the furniture company Parker Knoll, she determined to investigate. The research led her to Northern Ireland where he established a manufacturing centre named Tapestry Weavers (Ulster) Ltd, employing local people and where he featured regularly in the press. His promotional skills resulted in him having encounters with royalty and supplying high end residences, mainly in overseas markets. Yet there appears to be almost no evidence of any fabrics remaining and his name has disappeared from textile histories. Her research has discovered some surprising results, although the mystery surrounding his career and the whereabouts of his textiles continues.

Dr Gina Pierce is a Senior Lecturer at London Metropolitan University, and has for many years combined teaching textile design and theory with a career as a designer of furnishing fabrics. As a researcher practitioner, she leads the Tangible Archive Research Group, and currently delivers a programme of workshops connecting the public, charity and health groups to archives through creativity.

https://www.ticketsource.com/insiders-outsiders/lida-zika-ascher-the-mohair-rage-henry-nathan-emigre-textile-manufacturer-entrepreneur/e-bpjqey