

WFWP Stuttgart, Germany

Ute Lemme
February 4, 2016



On 4 Feb 2016, eleven participants of WFWP Stuttgart, Germany, met for our monthly Thursday afternoon meeting. This time we watched the 1950 original version of the film "Das doppelte Lottchen" from Erich Kästner's book with the same title. This was the first film to win the German film prize in the newly formed Federal Republic of Germany (BRD).

But first we enjoyed refreshments together as a group, before Gabriele Schickert opened the official part of the program with a prayer and a short excerpt from Dr. Moon's autobiography about the meaning of the family. Ute Lemme introduced the film with an explanation about its origin, its special features and also about the screenwriter, Erich Kästner, who also took over the role of the narrator in the film.

Erich Kästner (* 1899 in Danzig, † 1974 in Munich) was a successful German writer, journalist, screen writer and editor for cabaret, editor of children's books and humorous and critical poems. His antimilitaristic views caused his writing to be banned, especially during the 'Third Reich'. Already in 1942 the film in question was to have been made under the title 'the Big Secret'. But because his writing was banned, it was not until after WWII that Kästner was able to release the story, first as a book "Das doppelte Lottchen" in 1949 and then the film in 1950 (Internet: <http://www.veoh.com/watch/v38253052E5GSNJJaW>).

Not usual for a children's book and a film of that time were the following:

- The topic of divorce was central to the story
- The independent, single mother represented a modern mother figure
- The main character is not a boy, but two girls, one of whom takes on the role of the "model child"
- The breakdown of the marriage is because of the father

We very much enjoyed and were impressed by the film, projected on a big screen, depicting the moving story of the twin girls who by coincidence meet at a summer camp and find out that they are twins and belong together. They manage to bring about reconciliation between their divorced parents. After the film, we enjoyed a lively discussion.

Ute Lemme
WFWP Stuttgart, Germany