



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung **Female Pioneers of Research**

Pt.34

Elisabeth Schiemann



BESSEr@KIT





Elisabeth Schiemann (1881-1972)

Plant Geneticist & Resistance Fighter

Initially a teacher at a girls' school, she began studying natural sciences at the *University of Berlin* in 1908.

In 1912, she earned her doctorate with a dissertation on mutations in the *Aspergillus* mold fungus.





Starting in 1914 at the *Institute for Heredity Research* in Berlin, she completed her habilitation in 1924 with a thesis on the genetics of barley.

In 1932, she published the acclaimed work *The Origin of Cultivated Plants*. She combined genetics with historical botany.



Starting in 1934, she publicly opposed the Nazi racial ideology, supported Jewish friends, helped those fleeing persecution, and criticized the persecution of Jews.

In 1940, she was stripped of her teaching license because of this.

Forty-three years after her death in 1972, she was posthumously honored in 2015 by *Yad Vashem* as a 'Righteous Among the Nations' for her courageous stand against the persecution of Jews.





„Hunderte von Müttern und Frauen, deren Söhne und Männer in Konzentrationslagern sind, kämpfen um die notwendigen Papiere ... Diese armen, hilflosen Menschen werden misshandelt.“

"Hundreds of mothers and wives, whose sons and husbands are in concentration camps, struggle to get the necessary documents... These poor, helpless people are being abused."

