

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

About the Germans.

Mann, Klaus

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About the Germans.

Thinking of Germany by night
Sweet sleep takes flight;
A hot tear flows
From eyes I cannot close.

Heinrich Heine

I have often felt a sharp pang at the thought of the German people, so estimable as individuals, so miserable in the whole...Germany is nothing, but every single German is a great deal, and yet they fancy the very reverse to be true. Like the Jews, the Germans ought to be transplanted throughout the world, to bring out the best in them for the good of all nations.

Goethe

The Germans were once called the nation of thinkers. But do they think at all today any more? Today the Germans...distrust the spirit. Politics engulfs all interest for things truly spiritual. Deutschland, Deutschland ueber alles - I am afraid that was the end of German philosophy... 'Are there German philosophers? Are there German poets? Are there good German books?' These questions I am asked abroad. I blush; but with the courage I find even in desperate cases I reply: 'Yes, Bismarck.'

Friedrich Nietzsche.

The German has practical sense, but not sound common sense.
He often has visions, but no imagination.
He is a realist in private matters and an illusionist in public matters.
He is clever, but has no spirit.
He is sentimental, but not sensitive.
He is good-natured, but not very magnanimous.
He is obliging without being very reliable.
He can remain silent for hours, but even during these pauses he is not always discreet. *inventive*
He is always ~~creative~~, but rarely possesses genius.
He is less pedantic than is generally assumed. He is only obsequious, even before science.

Sometimes He cannot smile. He only laughs.
~~Finally~~ he, too, like all human beings, is moved to tears. But his tears are more touching - and ~~painful~~ than those of others. For one was not prepared for them and one is nonplussed.

(A neutral observer, in the magazine

Das Neue Tage-Buch, Paris.)

an budding

The German prisons and penitentiaries continue to be filled with human beings whose crime it is that they are better than their judges. The District Court at Halberstadt, for instance, recently condemned three accused persons "who did not know how to keep their distance from the Polish prisoners of war". One of

them had thrown cigarettes to a Pole, engaged in hard labor. Punishment: one month imprisonment. The second accused had made it possible for a Polish prisoner of war to communicate with his relatives by letter, by placing his private address at the prisoner's disposal. Four months imprisonment. The third accused gave a Pole a pullover and some cake. Four months imprisonment. The Nationalzeitung, Hermann Goering's organ, charges the condemned with "criminal good-nature." The Silesian Special Court has condemned an "unprincipled woman", who was intimate with a Polish prisoner of war, to three years in the penitentiary. During the first weeks of March the German special courts condemned 13 listeners to foreign radio broadcast to a total of 35 years in penitentiaries. (A list of those condemned giving their exact names follows).

(Neuer Vorwaerts, official organ of the German Social-democratic party, Paris.)

During the period covering February 26th. to March 10th., section a of the "Reich card for marmelade, sugar and eggs" provides for the allotment of two eggs. Since these eggs emanate principally from Denmark, necessitating a longer time for transportation, retail stores will not be in position to give out both eggs at once.

(Frankfurter Zeitung, February 16th. 1940.)

"An excellent meat gravy in three minutes without fat!"

(Ad in the Nationalzeitung, Essen, March 1940.)

The question: What is a neutral country? is asked in an English school. Whereupon one of the children answered: "A neutral country is one that is in danger."

In a school in the Third Reich the question is asked what is understood by German living space (Lebensraum). One child answered: "Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Hungary, Roumania, Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, the Ukraine...."

Representatives of the German Embassy at Moscow attend Stalin's birth-day reception. One says to the other: "I am very uneasy." - Why? - "Stalin says he wishes us what we wish him."

BERLIN, May 29. - A German soldier at the front was quoted today as saying to a church superintendent that "no victories can be won through prayers."

He urged the churchman to stop sending religious material to the front and save the money. The incident was reported by the "Schwarze Korps", organ of the Hitler Elite Guard.

"You declare in your letter," the soldier was quoted as having said, "that you are all praying for us. It interests us more, however, who fights for us and with us."

"I am convinced that they are praying also in England and in France. Who shall be helped? Perhaps he who prays most? No, only one can win, and that will be we, because we have the strongest and greatest belief in our Fuehrer, who, contrary to the Church, has smelted the German people into a solid block."

(New York Herald Tribune, May 30, 1940.)

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Zeilen Abstand!]