

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Impressions in Occupied Germany.

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Impressions in Occupied
Germany

When we left Germany, in 1933,
we thought it was only for a
short time. Didn't believe it
would last ...

But - time passed ...
Our warnings - unheeded, in
Germany as well as abroad ...

Hope for resolution: disappointment
Established found home
in U.S.

1939 - last chance ...
Now it was clear: Germany was
behind Hitler. Had to be defeated.

Joined U.S. Army. "Stars & Stripes"
Stationed in Italy:

... 1945 ...
Day sent to Germany: top one for
Alps: by jeep ...

MUNICH ... might ...
 in prison ...
 find my way through those ...
 familiar streets ...
 One house ... but hope to find
 GIRL ON THE

Klav" ...
 BALCONY ... [not way ...]
 another "Friedrich" ...
 He stay ... [Lebensbaum ...]
 "Why don't you stay ..."
 almost like ...

Wandering through streets ...
 Would find any friends in
 Haus ... Did I want
 to find any ...
 First ~~the~~ a ...

Christa Winsloe
 (Tradition in Unifon)
 Shot by ... Resistance ...
Oda Salsk ...
 extended by Klav!
 Weissbuch ...
 "Die ..."
 about ...

Renée Sintenis... (the sculptress -- another exceptional case: not only a fine artist but also a character... Called on her in Berlin... Found her rather discouraged and isolated...)

(Käthe Kollwitz -- another great artist and courageous democrat, died just before Hitler's fall...)

But -- Renée Sintenis, for all her artistic and moral qualities, is not an intellectual leader ... Nor is Ricarda Huch (too old, too conservative) or Prof. Jaspers (too academic, too abstract, lacking in popular appeal).

Are there no cultural leaders in postwar Germany?

There is a group calling themselves THE INNER EMIGRATION ("die innere Emigration") -- allegedly anti-Nazi. That group includes writers like Frank Thies, Walter von Molo -- both second-rate, from a literary point of view; both politically rather compromised. (Were members of "Reichsschrifttumkammer;" flourished under the Third Reich...)

More entitled to claim leadership:

Ernst Wiechert ... (spent eight months in Concentration Camp because he defended Pastor Niemöller... His addresses to German Youth: comparatively outspoken -- he even dares to mention "collective guilt" which made him rather unpopular... But Wiechert is an elderly man, rather lacking in inspiration and originality; a mediocre writer; a fervent nationalist... Not the ideal leader!)

What about Ernst Jünger?

(Philosopher. Enjoys considerable prestige. Turned anti-Nazi during final phase of the war; was involved in the plot of the Generals, of July 20, 1944. But before that time -- an ardent militarist and chauvinist, glorifying war... In fact, an intellectual forerunner and prepaper of the Nazi movement... Recently wrote a pamphlet, entitled THE PEACE, attacking Allies; distributed in English and American Zones, through devious channels... Not the ideal champion of German democracy, either...)

OTHER WRITERS OF CERTAIN INFLUENCE:

Erich Kästner ... (Satiric poet; author of popular children's book, "Emil und die Detektive;" kept more or less silent under Nazi regime. Holds now important position as literary editor of American-operated NEUE ZEITUNG in Munich... A pleasant talent, but journalistic, superficial...)

Werner Bergengrün ... (Lyric poet; more ambitious, more serious than Kästner... Inclined to indulge in apocalyptic moods... His typically German predilection for cosmic generalizations: speaks of man's innate evilness, of the "Original Sin" -- rather than of German guilt specifically...)

NO, THERE IS NO INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP...

No political leadership - Kay
Schmalzer

Gide celebrates him as representative German

Hesse: Swiss ...
[immediacy: not banned: Gide's mistake]

WHAT ABOUT GERMAN REFUGEE WRITERS?

Many of them died in exile...

Suicides:

Kurt Tucholsky (satiric poet and journalist) [disgusted, anti-Nazi]
Walter Hasenclever (playwright)
Ernst Weiss (novelist)
Stefan Zweig
Ernst Toller...

Others died, almost literally, of broken heart:

René Schickele (novelist; Alsatian: wrote his last book
in French)

Joseph Roth (Austrian novelist)

Cedön von Horwath (Hungarian playwright and novelist, wrote
in German)

Franz Werfel...

Bruno Frank...

As for surviving refugees -- scattered all over the world; mostly
in U.S. (Bert Brecht; E. M. Remarque; Lion
Feuchtwanger; Hermann Kesten; Oscar
Maria Graf, and others...)

Don't seem inclined to return to Germany.

Two returned as Allied officials:

Carl Zuckmayer ... (the playwright; now holding high
position in U.S. Zone.)

Alfred Döblin ... (French official, stationed in Baden-
Baden, editing a magazine, DAS GOLDENE TOR -- The Golden Gate.)

Others prefer to stay where they are...

Why? -- Non-Germans find it difficult to understand...

A complex question... Many reasons:

Loyalty to new country;

Feel estranged from old country;

CANNOT BE SURE THAT THEY ARE WANTED THERE...

Last consideration maybe the most important one...: especially for
Jewish writers. Anti-Semitism still going strong in Germany...

But even we so-called "Aryans" cannot help wondering whether
our former compatriots really are anxious to have us back...

I, for one, never received any invitation, no encouragement...
No German magazine has asked me for a contribution, so far. Nor
has any of my literary friends been offered any position...

It is true, my father & Heinrich Mann were
repeatedly asked to return --: H.M., to the Russian Zone; my father,
to his former hometown, Munich, in the U.S. Zone. Both had to turn
down those invitations -- partly because of age; partly out of
other considerations...

Unpleasant controversy about my father's repatriation -- made it
only too clear that Germans wanted him because they thought he might
be useful to them: not out of love or admiration...)

more subtle
New forms of anti-Semitism... Hate of
displaced persons...
trying to cause reaction
to return to Germany...

Emil Ludwig, Switzerland...

A. Zuckmayer, Palestine Max Brod

Harry Gold, New York
Hans H. Kohn, New York
Hans H. Kohn, New York

The only ones to return -- following Party orders --: COMMUNISTS:

J o h a n n e s R. B e c h e r (Poet; spent Hitler time in Moscow; now literary czar in Berlin: leader of "Kulturbund");
F r i e d r i c h W o l f (doctor and dramatist -- author of "Professor Mamlock" and other anti-Nazi plays; now in Berlin; his works successfully played all over Germany...)
A n n a S e g h e r s (Novelist: author of "The Seventh Cross"; returned from Mexico to Berlin);
T h e o d o r P l i v i e r (Novelist: author of "Stalingrad"; returned from Moscow to Weimar, in the Russian-occupied Zone; recently caused sensation by leaving Russian Zone, escaping to Southern Germany...)

CULTURAL LIFE MORE ACTIVE IN RUSSIAN-OCCUPIED ZONE...

Soviet authorities encourage, stimulate cultural activities: theatre, music, art, literature... The new Kulturhaus in Berlin... I visited the Russian Zone: saw theatres in Dresden, Leipzig, etc -- very much alive... Art exhibitions, concerts...

Russians appreciate educational and propagandistic value of literature and art.

French zone: fairly active in Baden-Baden, Berlin...
Anglo-American occupation authorities -- indifferent... Inclined to underestimate significance of literature for re-education of German people.

No books by refugee authors to be had in Anglo-American Zones.

(Financial difficulties: no possibility of transferring royalties.)

If cultural life in Russian Zone suffers from over-regimentation, intellectual activities in the Western Zones seem to be curiously lacking in any purpose and orientation.

That is not to say that occupied Germany is altogether sterile as far as culture is concerned.

One has to take into consideration -- technical difficulties (paper shortage; critical housing situation; general living conditions -- not propitious for intellectual activities...)

In spite of handicaps --:

b o o k s are published... (never enough! Immediately swallowed by Black Market...);

m a g a z i n e s appear... (notably, DIE WANDLUNG in Heidelberg -- sponsored by Karl Jaspers --, DAS GOLDENE TOR in Baden-Baden, DER AUFBAU in Berlin, DIE FAHRE in Munich...)

t h e a t r e s... (not on the pre-Hitler level, which was remarkably high; but some good productions... Mostly old plays: Brecht, Zuckmeyer, Sternheim, Wedekind, translations; one of the few new plays:

→ "DIE ILLEGALEN" by Weissenborn -- moving to me as it describes the drama of a girl whom I used to know -- a young artist, Oda Schottmüller, executed by the Nazis...)

m u s i c... (Left intact by Nazis. Good conductors: Furtwängler; Knappertsbusch in Munich; Carajan in Vienna, Berlin...)

→ Besides, one has to consider difficulties ... Yet ...

Ask: Hofw. 112.
Gugel (S. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 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2025. 2026. 2027. 2028. 2029. 2030. 2031. 2032. 2033. 2034. 2035. 2036. 2037. 2038. 2039. 2040.

Slogans, ideas still alive: in many ways, Hitler and Goebbels have won the war...

Cultural activities -- but not direction, no clear-cut line, no orientation...: no new ideology to replace bankrupt Nazi slogans. Cultural life seems to take place in a vacuum...

How could it be otherwise? There is no political or social program, either...

Future developments, in the cultural sphere as in other domains of German life, depend on world situation.

If peace can be maintained -- if East and West come to an understanding, there is no reason why the German nation should not gradually regain its mental and moral equilibrium.

We do not want to believe that the German genius is dead, even though we find it today paralyzed, confused and corrupted...

The concert of European culture will be incomplete as long as the German voice is missing.

It is to be hoped that this indispensable voice -- the voice of Goethe and Kant, of Nietzsche and Hölderlin -- will eventually make itself heard again.

We former Germans -- unable to contribute directly to the process of Germany's intellectual re-awakening -- will be the first to recognize and welcome the renaissance of the great German tradition, IF and WHEN it comes...

German - talented people

Young genius must be grown up -
right now...

American - Russian
relations etc.

Key problems...

... London Conference...

Berlin - Russia -
Tolstoy -
Bok -
Bismarck

"German Carillon"

leather

72/84v

