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German books.

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ERIKA MANN
AROSA, February 11th.

The literary business is picking up in Germany. In Greater Hesse and Wuerttemberg-Baden alone, 56 publishers have been licensed, and in the Western American zone, 89 books, averaging editions of 5000, have been published. There exists, however, a truly amazing similarity between what the Germans used to read under Gobbels and what they ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~reading~~ ^{READ} today. While top Nazis have become unavailable, authors who kept publishing in the "Third Reich"; whose names appeared in the Nazi press, and whose products were - by necessity - devoid of any plainly oppositional thought, continue to monopolize the ~~book~~ market. Virtually all that was "verboten" under Hitler, remains banned - if for different reasons.

Among those German authors whose works cannot be found in any German book-store or library today are:
Erich Maria Remarque, ^{Stefan} ~~Hannah~~ Zweig, Franz Werfel, Jakob Wassermann, Lion Feuchtwanger, Thomas and Heinrich Mann, Ernst Toller, Hermann Rauschnig, Konrad Heiden, Vicky Baum, Alfred Neumann, Bruno Frank, Leopold Schwarzschild, Berthold ~~Hbbht~~ Brecht, Arnold Zweig, Carl Zuckmayer, Hermann Kesten, Joseph Roth, Georg Kaiser, Fritz von Unruh. This list of names, augmented by others whose bearers fled Hitler's Germany, represents little less than what was - and is - known in the world as "contemporary German literature". With a few exceptions (such as Gerhardt Hauptmann, Hans Carossa and Hans Falla^D who turned Nazi and Ricarda Huch and the famed historian Professor Meinecke, who did not), this literature - in as far as it carried any weight abroad - escaped "Gleichschaltung" (coordination) by emigration. The fact that the majority of those who stayed behind enjoyed little, if any, international reputation, may in some instances have made life under the "Reichskulturkammer" (Reich's Culture

Chamber) appear preferable to life in exile. From a literary viewpoint, ~~EVEN~~ ^{such ~~persons~~ as} INNER-GERMAN CELEBRITIES, such ~~persons~~ as Frank Thiess, Walter von Molo, Eugen Ortner, Erich Kaestner, ~~bb~~ Waldemar Bonsels, or ~~even~~ Ernst Wiechert (who ventured to raise his voice in defense of Niemöller and was sent to Buchenwald where he soon achieved his release by signing a voucher promising to be good from now on - a promise which he faithfully kept), never compared with the more prominent among the exiles. And as for their political attitude, it was - at best - non-existent. At best their production between 1933 and 1945 will not further poison their countrymen, although the very style current throughout those years: the generally accepted glorification of the irrational at the expense of reason; the oily sentimentality, false simplicity and deliberate "hardness", typical of most of this provincial literature, will hardly contribute to Germany's much advertised "re-education".

Those who left (many of them did so voluntarily - outstanding "Aryans" whom Goebbels would have been delighted to have), were accompanied into exile by a number of publishers. Under the most hazardous conditions the production of German books continued in Austria (up to the Anschluss), Czechoslovakia (up to Munich), Holland (up to May 10th, 1940) and Sweden (up to now). Along with a few non-German firms (above all the militantly anti-fascist "Europa Verlag", Zuerich), these exiled publishers (the "Querido Verlag", Amsterdam-New York; the Allert de Lange ~~Wkhhg~~ Verlag, Amsterdam; the Bermann-Fischer Verlag, Stockholm, and others) held and are holding the German rights of anything the refugee authors produced, are producing and will produce in the near future. Their catalogues list any number of works obviously pre-destined to be fed today's Germans, or at least to be made available to them. Rauschnig's "Revolution of Nihilism" and his "Voice of Destruction"; Heiden's "History of National Socialism"; Remarque's "Three Comrades"; Stefan

Zweig's "The World of Yesterday"; Schwarzschild's "World in Trance" - should one not think that the educationally-minded allies would want such books to be read by the largest possible number of Germans? If they do, they have not thus far acted accordingly.

Ever since V.E.-Day, German publishers in exile and non-German firms holding German rights have been trying their best to get their goods into Germany. After the often almost insurmountable financial difficulties of the past 12 years, scarcely any of them could afford to "sell" to a country which could not, or was not permitted to, pay. Some solution which would permit ^{them} ~~him~~ to print the books either in, or near Germany and to change at least some of the incoming Marks into allied currency, had been hoped for. Evidently, any such arrangement would have burdened the respective allied treasuries. However, in the face of the over-all expenditures caused by the occupation, by the food shipments to Germany and even by the various educational programs, the amounts in question appeared negligible. Nor was the financial problem the only one involved. It would have been thinkable for the occupying powers to encourage, or even to permit, the return of certain refugee-publishers. Surely, men who served the allied cause throughout the war, would not have been less acceptable than men who but yesterday served (if only because they had to) der Fuehrer. The allies, however, applied their generally justifiable "anti-refugee policy" (the Germans, it is thought, do not care for people who neither sinned nor suffered with them) to the publishing field. By doing so, they not only barred a handful of anti-Nazi publishers from Germany, but also Germany from the better part of her literature. And while it is true that the average German has little use for returning exiles, his hunger for the formerly forbidden is a matter of fact. CERTAIN EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE ~~to let them know that they were not to be taken~~ ^{TO SATISFY THIS CURIOSITY AND TO PROVIDE} educational advantage of ~~the exiled firms have been asked~~ the Germans ~~maintained~~ with a number of refugee-books, the publishers of which were to be kept away. Some of the exiled firms were asked to yield

their rights (against nominal compensations) to houses which published under Hitler, just as they are publishing today. It is hard to think of a proposal less likely to be accepted. That, having barely survived a time when their books sold by the dozens only, these publishers should now surrender their rights to firms which for the past 12 years ~~had~~ by the tens of thousands, sold Nazi-approved works exclusively, AND was scarcely to be expected. The suggestion offended not only their business sense, but also their professional and political pride. They declined. Their authors, too, showed no desire to be re-introduced to the Germans by men none of whom had moved a finger to prevent the burning of their books.

I understand that negotiations are still - or again - in progress. Until they succeed, not one of the contributions which contemporary German literature has made to the cause of Democracy and which today might - if anything can - help reform the German mind, will be read in Germany.

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