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GEN MS 27 Early 20th-century German Print Collection Finding Aid

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**EARLY 20th-CENTURY GERMAN PRINT COLLECTION
GEN MS 27**

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**By
Julie Cismoski
and Kristin D. Morris**

**Portland, Maine
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Administrative Information

Provenance: The Early 20th-century German Print Collection was donated in 2012 by Karen S. Curley, whose father acquired the materials while serving in West Germany during the Cold War.

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Cite as: Early 20th-century German Print Collection, Special Collections, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Restrictions on access: The collection is open for research.

Description of the Collection

The collection contains 37 items, books and ephemeral material. Materials deal with German history from the beginning of World War I to the end of World War II. Dates span 1914 to 1983, with the bulk evenly spread between the periods of 1915-1923 and 1934-1942. The collection includes propaganda, war humor, poems, songs, and a film promotional leaflet; stories from German prisoners of war during WWI; and materials related to revolution (following World War I). The two issues of *Stern* magazine were published in 1983 but present articles on Adolf Hitler's diaries, which were soon afterward exposed as a hoax.

Series 1. Propaganda (1933-1942, 1983, undated)

The series contains publications of the Nazi Party, as well as other anti-Semitic, anti-American and anti-British materials. There are 7 books, a newspaper subscription form, a magazine clipping, a flyer, and two issues of *Stern* magazine.

Series 2. War Humor (1915, 1923, undated)

Stories and cartoons view elements of war with humor. This series contains one book, two periodicals, a newspaper and two newspaper clippings. Although the clippings are not dated, the materials seem to be related to the First World War.

Series 3. War Poems, Songs and Films (1914-1915, 1947, undated)

This series includes three clippings of war poems, and a book of poems. There are also a book of songs with war-time lyrics to sing to popular tunes, a promotional flyer, and one piece of sheet music. Some materials are not dated. Most appear to relate to the First World War with the exception of the promotional flyer, which is for a film about the aftermath of World War II. See other poems in the series War Humor, the clippings "Kriegs Humor," which includes the poem "Nach Berlin!," and "Wilhelm Kluckert."

Series 4. Revolution (1918, 1920, undated)

The series includes two books, one newspaper, two flyers and one announcement. Material relates to the political instability following the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II at the end of World War I; the Socialist Party and the provisional government; the Kapp Putsch; and reestablishment of the Weimar Republic.

Series 5. Military History (1917, 1934-1937, undated)

Most of the materials in this series are only marginally related to the rest of the collection. It contains a book with the stories of Germans displaced from Alsace Lorraine and imprisoned during WWI. "The Art of War in Words and Images" is a periodical that would appeal to enthusiasts of WWI military history. There is a publisher's catalog of military books and an undated poster stamp.

Series 1. Propaganda (1933-1942, 1983, undated)

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Subscription form. Völkischer Beobachter. "The People's Observer." Subscription form for the Nazi Party newspaper. Includes a detachable voucher for new subscribers to request a book from the Nazi Party.	[undated]
1	2	Book. Gelbgiesser, Willmar. Land der Gegensätze : Eindrücke aus USA. Leipzig : E. A. Seemann, c. 1942. 63 pages. "Country of Contradictions: Impressions from the USA." Anti-American propaganda, published by the Luftwaffenführungsstab (High Command of the German Air Force). Observations from a trip to the United States.	1942
1	3	Book. Unser Führer. [Berlin: 1940]. [16] pages. "Our Leader." Excerpts from Adolf Hitler's speeches and book Mein Kampf, published by the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht Abteilung Inland (Supreme High Command of Inland Nazi Armed Forces). Font: Fraktur.	[1940]
1	4	Book. Englands Maske ist gefallen. Düsseldorf : Völkischer Verlag, 1939. 64 pages. "England Has Been Unmasked." Anti-English, anti-Semitic propaganda. Font: Fraktur.	1939

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	5	Book. Dem Führer, Worte Deutscher Dichter. 1941. Series, Tornisterschrift des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht, Number 37. 63 pages. "To the Führer, Word of the German Poet." Poems for Hitler, selected by August Friedrich Velmede. Publication of the Supreme High Command of the Wehrmacht, issued on the Führer's birthday, 1941.	1941
1	6	Book. Feder, Gottfried. Das Programm der N.S.D.A.P. und seine weltanschaulichen Grundgedanken. Munich : Zentralverlag der NSDAP, Franz Eher Nachfolger, 1938. Series, Nationalsozialistische Bibliothek, Number 1. 60 pages. "The Agenda of the Nazi Party and its Ideological Tenets." Font: Fraktur.	1938
1	7	Book. Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei. Der Weg der NSDAP: Entstehung, Kampf und Sieg. [Berlin, 194?] 139 pages. "The Path of the Nazi Party: Origin, Struggle, and Victory." Illustrated. Published by the NSDAP, Nazi Party.	[194?]
1	8	Booklet. Deutschlands Kampf für die abendländische Kultur. [Berlin: 1933] 32 pages. "Germany's Struggle for Western Culture." Anti-Semitic, fascist propaganda publication. The cover picture shows Fascism's fight - Hitler in the background - with Communism - Karl Liebknecht, co-founder of German Communist party, in the foreground.	[1933]
1	9	Clipping. Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung. A page from the magazine Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung (Berlin Illustrated News) shows photographs documenting Hitler's rise to power. Top: photo taken in 1932, one year windows); bottom left: 1924, Hitler's prison cell; bottom right: before rise to power; "Zwei Fenster" (two windows); bottom left: 1924, Hitler's prison cell; bottom right: 1933, Hitler giving a speech from a window after being appointed Chancellor.	[undated]
1	10	Flyer. Deutschland erwache! Printed in Reutlingen, Germany, by Knappdruckerei. 4 pages. "Wake up Germany!" Flyer published by the Nazi Party, warning about inflation. Type-written notice added to first sheet of flyer, "with this announcement thousands of participants were enticed to sign..." Font: Fraktur.	[undated]

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	11	Periodical. Stern. 1983 April 28, Issue 18. The cover story of the German magazine announces "Hitler Tagebücher entdeckt" (Hitler's Diaries Discovered). The diaries were later proved a fake. The forger fabricated other Nazi memorabilia.	1983 Apr 28
1	12	Periodical. Stern. 1983 May 5, Issue 19. This issue continues with an article on Rudolf Hess from 'Hitler's diaries,' which were later revealed to be a hoax.	1983 May 5
1	13	Printouts, Propaganda series. Scans of fragile items, printed to reduce handling of originals.	2012 Mar

Series 2. War Humor (1915, 1923, undated)

2	14	Book. Hindenburg-Anekdoten: unser Hindenburg im Spiegel des Humors nebst vielen feldgrauen Schnurren aus dem Osten. Berlin : Verlag der 'Lustigen Blätter', 1915? "Hindenburg Stories: our Hindenburg viewed with humor along with many funny soldiers' stories from the Eastern Front." Humorous stories about German Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg who fought in WWI and later became president of the Weimar Republic. Mostly in Fraktur font.	[1915?]
2	15	Newspaper. Das Lustiger Blatt in ernster Zeit. Berlin : Ullstein & Co., 5 Feb 1915, Issue 6. "The Funny Pages in Serious Times" was a weekend supplement to the Berliner Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper. Font: Fraktur.	1915 Feb 5
2	16	Newspaper. Molot. New York, N.Y. 1923 Jan 15. Ukrainian newspaper, in Ukrainian. "The Ukrainian newspaper for satire and humor published semi-monthly by 'MOLOT' CO." This paper has articles on Philadelphia, and Ukraine and European politics. No connection to Germany or Prussia has been identified.	1923 Jan 15
2	17	Periodical. Das Blatt der Kinder. Berlin : Verlag Ullstein & Co, 19 Sept 1915, Issue 25. In "The Children's Paper"'s cover story "Uncle Otto with the Soldiers," uncle dreams that the children come to visit him in the barracks.	1915 Sep 19
2	18	Clipping. Title unknown. "Wilhelm Kluckert." Comical war poem/story. In Low German dialect. Font: Fraktur.	[undated]
Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
2	19	Clipping. Title unknown. "Kriegs Humor" (War Humor) column. "Zwei heitere Episoden aus den ersten Mobilisierungstagen" (Two funny stories from the first days of mobilization) by L. Marco. Clipping includes poem "Nach Berlin!" (To Berlin!) by Heinz Saur. Font: Fraktur.	[undated]
2	20	Printouts, War Humor series. Scans of fragile items, printed to reduce handling of originals.	2012 Mar

Series 3. War Poems, Songs and Films (1914-1915, 1947, undated)

2	21	Booklet. Weltkriegs Volkslieder, Weihnachten 1914. Berlin : S. & G. Saulsohn, 1914. 14 pages. "World War Folk Songs, Christmas 1914". War-time lyrics to be sung to familiar tunes, e.g. O Tannenbaum (O Christmas Tree). Font: Fraktur.	1914
2	22	Sheet music. Bitte des Feldheeres an die Heimat, von Franz A. Kaufmann. Berlin : Figaro Verlag. Issue 1 of Vaterländische Lieder (Songs of the Homeland). Song, music for piano and voice.	[undated]
2	23	Book. Jaedicke, Octavia. Feldgrau : Ernstes und Heiteres in Versen. Berlin-Friedenau : Self-published, 1915. 3d ed. 15 pages. Poems, proceeds to go to the war effort. Font: Fraktur.	1915
2	24	Flyer. "...und über uns der Himmel." Flyer promoting the film "...und über uns der Himmel" ("...And the Sky Above Us," also with English title "City of Torment"), directed by Josef von Bány, starring Hans Albers, in which a man returns to Berlin after World War II to find it changed.	1947
2	25	Clipping. Title unknown. "Sedan 1914" by Hans Brennert. Poem about Sedan, battle site of German victory during WWI. Font: Fraktur.	[undated]
2	26	Clipping. Title unknown. "v. Stein" by Georg Müller-heim. Poem, "From Stone." Font: Fraktur.	[undated]
2	27	Clipping. Title unknown. "Der Fahnenträger" by A. Meurer, Infantryman. Poem, "The Flag Bearer." Font: Fraktur.	[undated]
2	28	Printouts, War Poems, Songs and Films series. Scans of fragile items, printed to reduce handling of originals.	2012 Mar

Series 4. Revolution (1918, 1920, undated)

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
2	29	Newspaper. Vossische Zeitung. Berlin, March 18, 1920. Zweite Extra : Ausgabe (Second extra edition) This newspaper was published on the day that the Weimar government regained control after the Kapp Putsch.	1920 Mar 18
2	30	Book. Nur über meine Leiche!! Berlin : Buchhandlung Vorwärts, P. Singer G.m.b.H, [1918?] 16 pages. "Over My Dead Body." Socialist pamphlet published during the German Revolution, a period under a provisional government after the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II and before the establishment of the Weimar Republic. Warns that the revolution might still fail, and urges people to participate in the election and have a say in their fate. Font: Fraktur.	[1918?]
2	31	Book. Kuttner, Erich. Die deutsche Revolution: des Volkes Sieg und Zukunft. Berlin : Verlag für Sozialwissenschaft, 1918. "The German Revolution: Victory and Future of the People." This pamphlet was written on November 11, 1918, by Erich Kuttner, editor of Vorwärts, the newspaper of the Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (Social Democratic Party of Germany). Font: Fraktur.	1918 Nov 11
2	32	Announcement. Statement from the Prussian state government dated Berlin 19 March 1920. This statement was released by the Prussian government following the Kapp Putsch, a coup in 1920 (March 13-17), which attempted to overthrow the Weimar government. Issued by Prussian cabinet ministers: [Paul] Hirsch, [Otto] Fischbeck , [Albert] Südekum, [Adam] Stegerwald, [Rudolf] Oeser, [Wolfgang] Heine, [Konrad] Hänisch. 4 copies of type-written announcement.	1920 Mar 19
2	33	Flyer. "Mitbürger!" Flyer warning fellow citizens (Mitbürger), the middle class, that Communism threatens, with armed aggression, the negotiations for unity within the government.	[undated]
2	34	Flyer. "Die Regierung will die Neuwahlen sichern." Issued by the new government after the abdication of the Kaiser, assuring that "the government wants to secure the new elections" and the rumors of the Kaiser's return were false.	[1918?]
2	35	Printouts, Revolution series. Scans of fragile items, printed to reduce handling of originals.	2012 Mar

Series 5. Military History (1917, 1934-1937, undated)

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
2	36	Poster stamp. Deutsche Kriegsmarke (German poster stamp), "Für die hinterbliebenen unserer Krieger" (For our warriors left behind), published by Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland, an organization that promoted German culture abroad. Poster stamps were collectible mini posters used for propaganda or advertisement, popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.	[undated]
2	37	Book. Militärische Bücher. Berlin : E.S. Mittler, 1937. 67 pages. "Military Books." Publisher's catalog. Contains index. Font: Fraktur.	1937
2	38	Book. Kannengiesser, Paul. Leidensfahrten verschleppter Elsaß=Lothringer von ihnen selbst erzählt. 4th ed. Straßburg : Trübner, 1917. 82 pages. Stories of suffering from Germans displaced from Alsace Lorraine during WWI, imprisoned in France. Told in their own words. Font: Fraktur.	1917
2	39	Periodical. Kriegskunst in Wort und Bild, Number 1, October 1934, Year XI. "The Art of War in Words and Images" is an illustrated periodical on German military history covering World War I, including battles, tips for caring for rifles, etc. Font: Fraktur.	1934 Oct
2	40	Periodical. Kriegskunst in Wort und Bild, Number 10, July 1935, Year XI.	1935 Jul
2	41	Periodical. Kriegskunst in Wort und Bild, Number 12, September 1935, Year XI. Accompanying material: supplemental map, subscription form. Topographical map of Prussia: Preußen: Provinz Hessen-Nassau: 1 Kreis Arolsen, Reg. Bez. Kassel. "Prussia, Hessen-Nassau province, Arolsen and Kassel districts for Year XI." Berlin: Reichsamt für Landesaufnahme, 1934.	1935 Sep