

DEPARTMENT

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German Club Papers.

The material has been examined. Some letters have been extracted from the folder and annotated or translated, and a note is attached dealing with the propaganda literature.

Both translators who worked on the material were former members of the Club; one was a foundation member. Consequently they found it practically impossible to speak strictly of the papers before them without recalling events with which they were familiar. It will however be seen that in spite of constantly recurring troubles the Club managed to remain by its non-political principle until the end of 1938, when the rift between German and British members widened over the singing of the German National Anthem. Such Nazi propaganda material as there was could be read by anyone who desired,

but any member or Official who dared to do active Nazi propoganda or even to encourage members to read this material would certainly have got into immediate trouble with the many anti-Nazi members of the Club.

The material throws no light on the "Germanized" Club of 1939, and translators know nothing of it from personal knowledge, as they had resigned ~~in 1938~~ earlier.

The various Nazi organizations, e. g. language unions, clubs for Germans overseas, etc., were organized by the "Overseas Organization" of the Nazi Party; it was established in January 1937, and quickly systematized and coordinated the activities of the various existing organizations. There is no doubt that the Nazis worked on a concerted plan of developing German language clubs, supplying them with literature, and so leading them on to active propoganda organizations.

Literature

The propaganda literature consists of:-

a) Book catalogues.

b) Various propaganda publications in English, which give a good idea of the nature of the whole.

c) Copies of "Deutscher Lebensraum", = German living-space, preaching the need for German expansion.

d) Copies of "Der Norden", = "The North," monthly publication of the Nordic Society, preaching the racial superiority of Nordic man.

e) A few miscellaneous copies of periodicals.

f) Three copies of the "Heimatbrief", = Home

Letter, published by the Federation of German Clubs Abroad.

It would seem that these are mainly old copies of periodicals and not the result

of regular subscriptions. Most of them are fairly old in date, so it is quite possible that Messrs. Rump and Fuhrmann, who were not club officials in the earlier years, may know nothing about where they came from.

That they are propaganda material is undoubted; but the sporadic nature of the material suggests that while the club accepted such printed matter as arrived from Germany, it made no contact with the senders and did not allow itself to be used as a regular propaganda channel - not, at least, until 1938.