

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ACQUISITION
OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

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15 March 1944

TO: Members of the Interdepartmental Committee

FROM: Ensign Frederick G. Kilgour, USNR

Following are excerpts from a letter recently received from Reuben Peiss in Lisbon.

"Coincident with Ralph Carruthers' departure we were hit from two sides -- several delayed shipments of publications arrived, including some useful German stuff from as far back as September, and Cifani came down with the flu, which kept him away for some ten days. As a result I've been hopping, but we've managed to keep abreast of things. You have undoubtedly received by now the delayed publications. What with the recent raid on Leipzig, the repercussions of which will be felt in this office in a couple of weeks, there may very well be a serious falling off in the volume of what we ship during the coming month or so. I am enclosing a translation I made of an article on the disastrous effect of the bombardments on the Leipzig book trade. What it says should hold a fortiori after last week's raid.

Also enclosed are the following: a list of titles on subscription at the present time in Lisbon, along with some indication of whether or not they are coming, and a similar list provided by the British. Ralph has both copies with him in London (they are being dispatched at the same time as these copies). One thing which has been worrying me a bit of late is this. There are certain titles which we either film or send home in the original from Lisbon. At the same time the British send these same titles to their microfilm unit. Now, on the assumption that these are reaching Washington regularly from Lisbon, are you abstaining from ordering microfilm copies from the London lab? If so, I think that at the moment it is a mistake. Comparing notes with the British, I find that in general the arrival of publications is spasmodic for both of us, and that sometimes they get a title we both have on order while we do not, and vice versa. With publications falling off, it seems to me the home office ought to act as a general grab-bag, and not worry about duplication, otherwise the gaps are going to be pretty serious.

Enclosed also is a list of books submitted for sea pouch on Feb. 19.

BOOKS SUBMITTED IN LISBON FOR SHIPMENT
BY SEA POUCH, February 19, 1944

Scelle, Georges, Manuel élémentaire de droit international public.

Demondion, Pierre. L'artisan dans l'état moderne.

Reproduced from MSS collections, Lib. of Congress

24a

Negré, A. Précis de technique radiologique.

Duguil, Leon. Les constitutions et les principales lois politiques de la France depuis 1789.

Lama, Henri. Traité pratique de la responsabilité civile.

Taschenbuch für Verwaltungsbeamte 1943.

Hersog, R. O. Technologie der Textilfasern, Bd. 7 (Die Kunstseide, ordered as a periodical on IDC 10003401)

Holm, Ragnar. Die technische Physik der elektrischen Kontakte.

Joos, G. Lehrbuch der theoretischen Physik.

Dokaschik, Heinz. Kriegsernährungswirtschaft, 2 v. and suppl.

Tomassan, Jean. Doctrine et mission du generationisme français.

Rouast, Andre. Précis de législation industrielle.

Burdeau, G. Cours de droit constitutionnel.

Maurras, Charles. Vers l'Espagne de France.

Beaulieu, Jean. L'Europe de demain.

THE DESTRUCTION IN LEIPZIG, THE CITY OF BOOKS

(Translation of an article in Der Schweizer Buchhandel, Jahrg. 11, Heft 2, 31 January, 1944)

According to latest reports from Leipzig we must reckon with extraordinary destruction in that book center. Not only the large book agents with warehouses but also such well-known industries as the graphic arts, printing, and stereotyping, etc. seem to have been largely destroyed. Not only have stocks on hand been affected, but with the destruction of the graphic industries possibilities of reproduction have for the most part been eliminated. The Swiss book trade can hardly imagine the extent of this catastrophe. It will soon feel the effects much more sharply than hitherto, especially in the field of scientific books. One has only to think of the great medical textbooks, technical works, etc.

In his article 'The Destruction of the Book City of Leipzig' in the Revue Schweizer Rundschau Dr. Walter Leier writes: 'The lack of standard scientific works, dictionaries, textbooks, schoolbooks, etc. will very shortly make itself felt not only in Germany but among us. In the fields of medicine, technology, and philology, study and research will be most profoundly hampered for a long time. Specially affected by the blow are musicians and music-lovers; as is well known, the music and scores of almost the entire literature of music were printed in Leipzig. Most of the valuable type plates have been destroyed.'

'Our gymnasia will soon have difficulty providing editions of Greek and Latin classics for students...It is therefore absolutely essential that measures be taken to replace those valuable works which are indispensable for science, technology, education, and practical life.'

Swiss publishing, which in recent years has been extraordinarily active in the fields of belles-lettres, children's literature, art books etc., will have to occupy itself most intensively with the problem of extending its activity to the field of scientific and other heavily used books. To what extent such problems can be solved only by subsidies is still an open question. In any case Comprehensive planning with the cooperation of all interested parties is needed. The next number of this journal will be devoted partly to discussion of this complicated problem."

Frederick G. Kilgour