

A b s c h r i f t

Archaeological Institute of America
Schermerhorn Hall
Columbia University
New York, N.Y.

Office of the President

May 10, 1940

To the President of the German Archaeological Institute
Maienstr. 1
Berlin W 62
Germany

Sir:

In the spring of 1914 the then Imperial German Archaeological Institute did me the honour of electing me to Corresponding Membership. Flattered by this early recognition of my work, fired with a youthful admiration of German scholarship, and fond of all Germans I had yet encountered, I accepted.

With the outbreak of the World War in the late Summer of that year I strove to share the conviction that the Germans were, after all, a delightful people, though deluded by their leaders. I retained my membership in the Institute and maintained contact with German archaeologists until, when I cancelled my attendance at a dinner scheduled to be given in my honour at The German Archaeological Institute in Athens three days after the sinking of the "Lusitania", Germans ceased to speak to me.

Nevertheless, in 1929, I was elected to Ordinary Membership in the German Archaeological Institute and, still believing in the future of German scholarship and civilization, I accepted. Likewise, though greatly disillusioned by the advent of Nazism, disappointed by the supine stupidity of the German race in falling for the second time within one generation under the sway of egomaniacs, and horrified by the immorality of the German leaders with reference to Austria and Czechoslovakia, I hoped that I might help to improve scholarly relations if ~~xx~~ I, as representative of the Archaeological Institute of America, attended the Sixth International Archaeological Congress at Berlin on August 20-26, 1939. My visit had a contrary effect. I was enabled to observe at first hand the futility of present-day German scholarship, and its subjection to crass materialism. The rape of Poland began while I was still present in Berlin. Still I tried to persuade myself, as have most Americans, that there are good Germans as well as bad Germans. The past month has at last demonstrated that all Germans (with the possible few exceptions who "prove the rule") are to be classed together as immoral barbarians, whom it is the task of civilization to crush and render harmless for the future, and whose Führer with his immediate associates should be exterminated like mad dogs. I regard my membership for more than twenty-six years in the German

Archaeological Institute as a blot on my record, and, in order to expunge what would be disgraceful to prolong, I herewith tender my resignation from the German Archaeological Institute.

Yours truly

gez. William Bell Dinsmoor

President

Abschrift !

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