

ZEUGENSCHRIFTUM

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Name:	ZS Nr.	Bd.	Vermerk:
L I E B O L D , Ernest G.	2473	I	

katalogisiert Seite:	Personen: Liebold, Ernest G. Ford, Henry Wilhelm II (Dt.Kaiser)
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KOPIE
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Dear Editor:

In 1972, the University of Michigan Press in Ann Arbor, Michigan published my book entitled, Henry Ford and Grass-roots America. This book came out in paperback in 1973 and in 1990 it was re-published by The Easton Press of Norwalk, Connecticut in their classic leather-bound series.

I spent 12 years doing research on this book most of which was done in the Henry Ford Archives located at the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan. During this research in Henry Ford's personal files, I ran across a letter written by Ernest G. Liebold who was Henry Ford's executive secretary. This letter was written on August 28, 1931. It was mailed to W. J. Cameron who was the press secretary for Henry Ford during the 1930s.

As I read this letter more recently, I thought that this interview with Kaiser Wilhelm might be of interest to many people in Germany today. I think the letter presents the Kaiser in a very positive manner revealing him as a man of dignity, intelligence and honesty.

As far as I know, this letter has never been published and I think I have read more material in the Ford Archives than any historian in the United States. During my teaching career I have written 3 books and 50 articles for scholarly journals. I was a Fulbright Lecturer at the Frei University of Berlin in 1955-1956.

The following letter was written by Ernest G. Liebold to William S. Cameron on August 28, 1931. The original letter is on file in the Henry Ford Papers, "Public Relations Miscellaneous Data," Accession 274. Box 2. Ford Motor Company Archives, Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Michigan.

I submitted this letter to the editor of Der Spiegel who in turn suggested that I mail this letter to your office in Munich.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Reynold M. Wik.

Reynold M. Wik

Institut für Zeitgeschichte

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Letter

A Visit With Kaiser Wilhelm in 1931.

Dear Mr. Cameron:

The dinner last night was a gala affair. All the staff including some invited generals were all dressed in their military adornment with medals, stripes, bars, boots and spurs, including the Kaiser (as he is called here).

He still seems to like this display. There were 26 seated at the table, and the menu was quite simple. Although in their uniforms, every one present was extremely cordial. There were no airs, other than the family formalities, and one was not made to feel out of place.

While here thus far I have had several talks with the Kaiser, and no one can deny that he possesses a very keen intelligence. He told me about a new energy consisting of oxygen, alcohol and water, in which he thought there was a great future. He said it was even more powerful than the power derived from the use of rockets. He expressed much bitterness toward France, and blames them for all the troubles of Europe.

This morning we had the customary religious service at 8:45, at the close of which he read the weather prediction which predicted rain. At 10 o'clock it rained.

After breakfast we visited the woodpile. I participated with the rest and split the largest pile. The Kaiser sits at the buzz saw and cuts the wood in lengths of about 12 or 14 inches which is in turn chopped into smaller pieces by the others. It is collected in wheel barrows from which the Kaiser picks it up and throws in on a pile. The wood is distributed to needy families in Doorn, I am told.

This work continued for about an hour or so when tea is served about 11 o'clock and those present participate in general conversation. I expected to leave this morning but was requested to remain for lunch, as the Kaiser still wanted to talk to me.

He is most congenial and quite talkative, without the slightest attitude of stiffness. He said he never touched a drop of whiskey in his life, and only drinks wine moderately during meals.

For lunch today there were the Prince's family, some of the staff, and a Spaniard and his wife. Both the latter were Ford enthusiasts and their remark that they drove only Ford cars brought considerable applause from the Kaiser and those present, which was naturally intended for my benefit. He gave me a large colored photograph which he autographed and on which he wrote the following inscription which will interest Mr. Ford.

" Nothing is more likely to lead to war than the diplomatic and military over-organization of Peace."

" Nothing is settled finally until it is settled right."

" Socialism is the determination of the have nots to take away the property of the haves."

He has also given me a number of books about Germany and its people, his life, and some pamphlets giving the facts about the last war.

Following lunch we had a talk about the Ford industry in the United States. the Grand Canyon, Prohibition, etc. He also showed me photographs he had received from the United States showing a new highway being tunnelled through the rock at Grand Canyon at a cost of \$3,000,000, shortening the distance from 139 miles to 25 miles; the Tunnel being $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long.

He seems to keep up to date on most everything in the United States, good roads, skyscrapers, railroads etc.

At his age, 74, he shows much vigor and energy and his whole heart seems enveloped in the German people.

I left at 2:15 p.m. returning to Solonge. Kindly read this to Mr. Ford at your opportunity.

Very truly yours

E.G.L.



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