Books at Your Service

110,000 Volumes Available in HICOG Reference Library

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The casual borrower of books from the HICOG Reference Library is usually pleased to find what he wants to read, but seldom is aware of the immense amount of work done to make each book available for use. The glass-enclosed Rotunda Room in the Headquarters Building contains more than 25,000 books, pamphlets, periodicals and newspapers. Each item has undergone complicated technical library processing in order to be ready to serve the reader when needed. Because most of these operations are carried out behind the scenes, the general public is seldom aware of them. For the same reason, since all the Library's books are not in the Rotunda most readers are not aware of the extent and scope of the entire collection.

Before describing the Library as it is today a short historic sketch of its growth would seem to be in order. It had its humble beginnings in the early days of the occupation in another IG Farben building, that in Hoechst, a Frankfurt suburb. There, shortly after V-E Day, the first Chief Librarian, Major Eugene D. Hart, formed a small book collection in a small office room. It consisted of a collection of Army field manuals, several language dictionaries, an encyclopedia and a copy of the World Almanac. This was the origin of a book collection that was to grow to more than 110,000 volumes within five years.

Encouraged by General Lucius D. Clay and his Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Bryan Milburn, Major Hart set out on the difficult task of procuring the necessary books, supplies and equipment in order to establish a reference library worthy of the name. Conditions existing at that time did not make this an easy task.

However, his efforts met with some success, so that by August 1945 he required the assistance of another librarian, Captain Helen E. O'Day. By this time the Library had moved to Berlin with other elements of the United States Group Control Council and had begun rendering increased reference service, so badly needed by the personnel of USGCG, who were increasing in number by leaps and bounds.

On Oct. 1, 1945, the United States Group Control Council was reorganized, emerging as the Office of Military Government for Germany (US). Simultaneous with this reorganization came a great influx of new personnel, and the Library's book collection began to grow rapidly. From two small offices on the second floor it moved to the third floor of the Director's Building, where it was eventually to occupy 15 rooms with a total of 19,000 square feet of floor space. In April 1946 the present Chief Librarian, Henry A. Dunlap, replaced Major Hart, who returned to the United States.

Because of the Library's great size the staff viewed with some trepidation the possibility of a move to Frankfurt. This became a reality in October 1949 when the Department of State took over OMGUS and established the Office of the US High Commissioner for Germany. The Library staff then began preparations for a 400-mile move of every book and piece of furniture in the Library. As far as could be determined, never before had a library of such size been moved such a distance.

A detailed story of the move from Berlin to Frankfurt would provide sufficient material for a novel. The American staff members, like other HICOG personnel, commuted between Frankfurt and Berlin for months. Convoy after convoy of trucks and trailers rolled down the Autobahn (super highway) to Frankfurt every weekend for more than two months, laden with the books and equipment of the Library. The books alone filled 980 wooden crates, each weighing about 200 pounds.

Since sufficient space was not immediately available in the Headquarters Building, most of the books and equipment were initially stored in a warehouse, from which the last of the books are still gradually being transferred to their new home in the Headquarters Building.

Despite all the difficulties encountered, the Rotunda Reading Room opened for business on Dec. 21, 1949, giving only reference service. On Jan. 9, 1950, circulation of books was resumed, and the Library was fully operative once more. Several further moves were made within the Headquarters Building, but the Library is now firmly established and functioning.
The vast collection of the Library owes its existence to many generous donors, public and private. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the Library of Congress are among the large institutions which have given the Library many valuable books, as have other American and foreign organizations of a similar nature. Countless staff members of OMGUS and HICOG have given, and continue to give, much valuable printed material to the Library. One of the greatest donors is the Information Services Division, which since 1946 has given to the Library one copy of each German book, pamphlet and periodical published in the United States Zone. This forms a priceless collection, which cannot be equalled anywhere else in the world.

Another unique collection is that consisting of more than 20,000 volumes of Nazi and militaristic German books, collected under Order No. 4 of the Allied Control Authority. The value of this collection lies in the fact that all other copies of such books were ordered destroyed. It is being carefully preserved by the Library, both for necessary current reference use and for later historical research.

Not all the books in the Reference Library are gifts. Each year some 2,000 volumes are purchased, the bulk of them in English, but including a number in German and other European tongues. The selection of this material is based on suggestions from the staff of HICOG and from various bibliographical guides used in all American libraries. Suggestions for purchase are always welcome, and purchases are always made within existing budget limitations.

Books ordered from the United States take about six months to arrive in the Library. They then enter processing, during which time they are classified, cataloged, labeled and placed on the shelves for use. The Reference Library uses the Library of Congress classification system, the same used in most of the great libraries in the United States.

The general reference collection of the Library is like that of a small university or college library in the United States, containing encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, manuals, directories of all kinds and in many languages. The Library contains material in all fields of knowledge, but very little in law and medicine. The first of these is covered well by the Law Library in the Office of General Counsel. Medicine, a highly-specialized field, is taken care of by collections in Army hospitals.

Although the Library has excellent general collections, it does specialize in certain fields. It has always aimed to acquire as much material as possible on all aspects of German life, before and during the occupation. This includes not only commercial books and periodicals, but also books, pamphlets and periodical publications issued by OMGUS and HICOG.

It was discovered early in the life of the Library that much material was also needed on other European countries and on international relations and economics. Along with this discovery was also found the need for a strong collection of books on life in the United States, shown in all its aspects. For this reason a good collection of books on American history was built up. The Library continues to make every effort to provide what materials are needed for HICOG to carry out its mission.

The questions asked daily in the Rotunda Reading Room are as varied as one can imagine: "What is the proper way to address a letter to a Catholic Bishop?" "Do you have a copy of the text of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade?" "What is the setup of the international government of Tangiers?" "Do you have a copy of the text of the Fulbright Act?" Not all questions are simple, nor are all of them answered. But every effort is made to find the answer or to recommend a place where it can be found. Early in 1947 the Library answered a request from the International Military Tribunal in Tokyo. Most of the Library’s users fortunately are not so distant.

Listed below are the general rules for the guidance of users or potential users of the Reference Library. It must be pointed out here that HICOG personnel anywhere in Germany can request information from the Reference Library by telephone or in writing. It is hoped that it will soon be possible to arrange to lend books by mail also.

**HICOG Reference Library Rules**

1. The HICOG Reference Library is a branch of the Operating Facilities Division, Office of Administration. The Reading Room, the portion of the Library open to the public, is located in the Rotunda of the Headquarters Building. The telephone number of the Reading Room is 8068.

2. The Reference Library is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each weekday, Monday through Friday inclusive.

3. The Library contains 110,000 volumes of books, pamphlets, newspapers and periodicals, of which 25,000 are completely classified and cataloged according to the Library of Congress system. Another 25,000 are partially cataloged by author only. 60,000 volumes remain to be cataloged and classified.

4. The Library purchases about 2,000 volumes of non-fiction a year, chiefly in the English language. It also has
a large collection of books in German. Suggestions for purchase are welcomed, and procured within budgetary limitations.

5. Ordinarily a reference library does not lend books. However, realizing that it is not always possible to spend hours in the Reading Room, certain books are permitted to circulate for a 14-day loan period. A book may be renewed if another borrower is not waiting for it.

6. The categories of books not permitted to circulate are listed below:
   - Reference books (Those marked "Ref" on the labels);
   - Current magazines and newspapers;
   - Bound magazines and newspapers;
   - German-licensed publications (so-called "ISD" books), and
   - Nazi books.

Customers are requested not to reshelve books that they have used in the Library, as a misplaced book is a "lost" book until the next inventory. All books should be left on a table after use.

7. Circulating books can be lent only to those Americans who, on departure, are required to clear Frankfurt Military Post. Further, books can be lent only to Americans because only they possess dollar instruments and can pay for lost volumes. However, Allied personnel and German employees of HICOG can make use of the Reading Room at any time. If an American who is otherwise eligible to borrow books is willing to sign for volumes for an Allied friend or a German employee they may also borrow books. It must be pointed out, however, that the person signing for a book assumes complete responsibility for the return or replacement of that book.

8. In order to borrow a book the following procedure has been established. On his first visit to the Library to borrow a volume each person is required to present identification in the form of a passport or AGO card and from this a card is made for the Library circulation file. The borrower is then required to sign a slip for each title borrowed, and on return of the book he should insist on receiving this slip back. It must be remembered that no one can clear Frankfurt Military Post if he has failed to return a book belonging to the Reference Library.

9. As every public library belongs to the citizens of the community in which it is located, so does the Reference Library belong to the entire staff of HICOG. This is no idle statement. The Library is yours. Pay it a visit. You may well be surprised at the wealth it contains which is at your service. Remember that librarians have a knack of unraveling problems and answering questions when everyone else has failed. And if they do not know the answer themselves they may know who does know it. The Library staff has no desire to ram books down your throat, but they do want to put books into the hands of those who need the information they contain.

Women Showing Greater Initiative

GERMAN WOMEN in Wuerstemberg-Baden are showing increased initiative and self-reliance in public matters due largely to the reorientation activities of the Women's Affairs Section of the Education and Cultural Relations Branch, OLC Wuerstemberg-Baden.

Miss Margaret Blewett, chief of the OLCWB Women's Affairs Section gave the following examples of recent progress in these fields:

Women of Schwaebsich Hall established a day nursery. Upon the request of the Women's Club of Schwaebsich Hall, the GYA House of Schwaebsich Hall has placed a room at the disposal of the club for a day nursery for children whose mothers are compelled to earn their own living, and therefore are unable to take care of their children during daytime. These children have the opportunity to play and work at the GYA House under the supervision of an adult person.

The members of the Women's Club of Schwaebsich Hall displayed much concern about a possible loss of a very well qualified doctor who was being denied the opportunity to practice. In one of their meetings the women passed a resolution demanding reemployment of the doctor. The women succeeded in having their resolution signed by several hundred men and women, and through their efforts two wards with a total of 20 beds were placed at the disposal of this doctor.

The career women of Esslingen have organized a building cooperative for the purpose of erecting apartments suitable for professional women. A board of directors and a management council have already been formed and both consist entirely of women. As soon as negotiations with the city in regard to a building plot are concluded, the group plans to publish a request for architectural plans to be submitted on a competitive basis.

Bavaria Face-Lifting Hotels

With an eye toward the anticipated postwar record influx of tourists this year, hotels in Bavaria are undergoing a face-lifting through the financial aid of ECA counterpart funds.

In Munich alone, some DM 1,000,000 ($238,000) in ECA counterpart funds have been granted to hotel operators to help them prepare for the expected rush of tourists, many of whom will be going to the Passion Play at Oberammergau. This is but one use of the funds accruing to Western Germany as a result of its participation in the European Recovery Program.

"In Bavaria," declared Fred C. Mehner, chief of the Trade, Industry and Economics Analysis Branch of the Economic Affairs Division, OLDR, "tourism is big business. Before the war, its revenue from the tourist trade amounted to as much as $40,000,000 a year. Revival of this very important contributor to Bavaria's normally sound economy has been hampered since the war by inadequate tourist accommodations."