Lecture

delivered before the

Germanistic Society of Chicago

by

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on

February 3rd, 1909
METHODS OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION IN
MEDIAEVAL GERMAN CITIES

When, at the beginning of the 19th century, the very foundations of public life in Germany seemed to be shattered, when before the irresistible onslaught of the Napoleonic armies one German State after another crumbled to pieces, when, with the final dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire, the end of political independence seemed to have come, it was the re-awakened spirit of the past which, more than anything else, prevented an utter collapse of national ideals and made a regeneration of national existence possible. Among the traditions of the past which at that time were comforting inspirations to German patriots, there was none more comforting or inspiring than the history of the German cities in the Middle Ages, the memory of a time when Lübeck and Hamburg dominated the trade of all Northern Europe, when Nuremberg and Augsburg were the rivals of Venice and Florence in industrial enterprise and artistic culture. Romantic literature is full of more or less extravagant praise of Mediaeval German City life, its sturdiness, its honesty, its freedom, its public spirit, its patriotism, its piety; and whether this praise takes the form of picturesque description, as in Tieck’s novels, or of historical reflection, as in Arndt’s political pamphlets, or of lyric effusion, as in Schenkendorf’s poems, it is always coupled with an appeal to the present to live up to the precious traditions of the past and to restore the ancient glory of Imperial Germany.

This romantic view of the German past is, however, not the only testimony to the soundness and vigor of public life in the German cities of the 14th and 15th centuries. We have not a few descriptions by Mediaeval writers, especially by foreigners traveling in Germany, which go to confirm the impression made by the eulogies of the Romanticists. Perhaps the best known of these contemporary accounts is that by an Italian humanist, the Cardinal Enea Silvio, later Pope Pius II., who visited Germany in 1458, and who, to judge from the frequency of his
superlatives, must have been amazed by the symptoms of material prosperity that he met with everywhere; very much in the same way in which Monsieur Huret, Monsieur de Vogué or Mr. Vanderliep are impressed with the material progress and power of contemporary Germany. "We declare, frankly," he says, "never has Germany been richer, never more resplendent than today. Indeed, the German nation surpasses all others in greatness and vigor. What more beautiful can be found in all Europe than Cologne, with its wonderful churches, city-halls, towers and palaces, its stately burghers, its noble stream, its fertile fields round about? Strassburg, with its many canals, is a second Venice, but more healthful and pleasanter, because the water in these canals is pure and clear, not salt and ill-smelling as in Venice. Not to speak of its magnificent Cathedral, some of the houses of Strassburg citizens are so proud and costly that no king would disdain living in them. Beautiful are the private houses in Basle with their painted facades and their neatly kept gardens, fountains and court yards. Berne is so powerful that it can easily put an army of 20,000 men into the field. And what shall we say of Nuremberg? If the traveler, coming from lower Franconia, first sees this glorious city from the distance, it looms up before him in truly majestic splendor, and this impression is confirmed in entering its gates, by the beauty of its streets. The churches of St. Sebald and St. Lawrence are venerable and imposing; the imperial castle looks down proudly and ruggedly from its height, and the citizens' houses seem to be built for princes. Truly, the kings of Scotland would be glad if they were housed as well as the moderately well-to-do burghers of Nuremberg."

It seems not unlikely that these enthusiastic descriptions of Mediaeval German city life, both by Romanticists of the 19th century and by foreign observers of the 15th, are not without those exaggerations and idealizations with which the distance, either of time or space, so often deludes us. And yet it is true that on the whole we have here a correct estimate of what this life stood for. Public life in Mediaeval German cities, marks undoubtedly one of the first important stages in the development of modern civilization. It presents one of the earliest and most successful attempts in modern history, to combine liberty and order, private enterprise and devotion to common tasks, the pursuit of material interests and the fostering of ideal aspirations. It is from this point of view that I shall examine some phases of this life; it is this threefold union of seemingly opposing principles which I shall try to illustrate. If this study should convey some lessons for American Municipal Administration also, so much the better.
I.

Let me, then, first say a few words as to how far the German cities of the Middle Ages may be said to have been representatives both of liberty and order.

It is not too much to assert that the whole development of Mediaeval German cities, from the 10th to the 15th century is an almost uninterrupted line of successive stages of emancipation, of a constant widening of political rights and responsibilities. If in the chronicles of the 10th century the words “civitas” or “oppidum” are by no means infrequent (they are applied, e. g., to such places as Cologne, Magdeburg, Merseburg, Frankfort, Augsburg), we should not forget that these places at that time can be called cities only by courtesy. They are settlements of bondmen, half artisans, half peasants, around some bishop’s seat or upon some princely domain. The settlers are in the exclusive service of the lord, be he an ecclesiastic or a secular dignitary; they work for him, they are maintained by him, they may at any moment be dispossessed by him. Of civic independence there is here no trace as yet.

The first step towards civic independence seems to have been the result of the development of local commerce. The oldest statute of the city of Strassburg, belonging to the first half of the 12th century, may show us wherein this step consisted. Still, as in earlier times, the government of the town is exclusively in the hands of the bishop. He appoints the Vogt and the Schultheiss, the judges in criminal and civil matters; he appoints the Burggraf, the supervisor of market and trade regulations; he appoints the collector of revenue, the mint master and all the minor officials under whose supervision the artisans and traders carry on their work. But in one important respect a change has come about. The settlers do not any longer work exclusively for the bishop; by the side of the “cottidie servire,” the daily service, there has been found room for a certain amount of the “fororum venalium studere,” i. e., of the work for the market or private gain. The dependence on the bishop now takes the form of stated tributes in kind or of periodical personal service of various sorts; it is still dependence but it is not any longer a bondage which obliterates all individual activity.

The great change, however, toward communal independence comes in the 13th century, in the period of transition from exclusively agricultural to at least partially industrial methods of production, and this change is brought about through a conflict between the bishop or territorial lord on the one hand and their knightly officials and the most prominent citizens on the other,
The bishop and lord, of course, as landed proprietors, cling to agricultural methods of administration, to the tributes in kind and to the personal services due to them. The citizens on their part and the knightly magistrates, whose fortune naturally is bound up with the industrial development of the town, seek to further this development by replacing these personal services and tributes by a system of taxation better adapted to the freer financial conditions of the time; they seek to establish a city administration suited to the needs of the rapidly increasing export trade and the rapidly growing importance of the money market. It is out of these conflicts that there arises the institution of the city council, first a temporary committee of conference consisting of prominent citizens and knightly magistrates to negotiate with the bishop or lord, next developing into a standing commission regulating taxes, prices, wages and other matters of industry and trade, finally an executive, legislative and judicial body representing in itself the full sovereignty which now (sometimes as a result of violent struggles, sometimes by way of peaceful compromises) has passed over from the bishop or territorial lord to the town.

In this second stage of city development the participation in public affairs was confined to a few distinguished families, those very families that had carried through the struggle with lord or bishop, partly descendants of the knightly magistrates of the 12th century, partly having risen to prominence by successful business enterprise. These patrician families in the second half of the 13th century practically constituted the city. For not only was the council exclusively recruited from these families, it even had the power of perpetuating itself and was therefore in every sense of the word an oligarchy uncontrolled by anything even approaching popular representation. It is the struggle against this oligarchy which ushers in, during the 14th century, the last stage in that process of constantly widening emancipation of which I spoke before. This struggle is the outcome of the steadily rising political importance of the guilds.

Originally the guilds were devoid of political character. They were associations of artisans belonging to the same craft, intended to facilitate production and to regulate competition among themselves in such a manner as to insure as even a distribution of profit as possible. When, in the 13th century, the patrician families fought the struggle for city autonomy against bishop or territorial lord, the guilds, although undoubtedly embracing the bulk of the city population, had not yet risen above this essentially economic phase of their development. They stood behind the patricians: they helped to win municipal autonomy, but they did not as a rule, reap direct political advantages from the
victory, except in so far as it may be called a political advantage, that they received in most cases from the patrician city government the sanction of their statutes and the public guarantee of the enforcement of these statutes. This condition of things, although unnatural, might have lasted longer than it did, had the patrician administration maintained the high standard of public duty and unselfish devotion which it had in most German cities during the 13th century. Instead of this, the patrician administration almost everywhere degenerated, in the 14th century, into narrow, selfish and corrupt cliques whose arbitrary rule became all the more hateful and oppressive, since it derived its sole power from the very people whom it degraded. It was against this official corruption that the guilds revolted. Decades and generations of internal wars and bitter class hatred followed; the patriciate, threatened in its very existence, not infrequently resorted to measures of barbarous repression and blind despair, and the guilds, whenever given a chance, would then retaliate with equally blind fury. For instance, in 1302 ten elders of guilds were burnt at the stake in Magdeburg; in 1305, at Bruges, some ring leaders of the artisans were buried alive. In 1380, at Ypres, 400 persons were burnt and 700 were beheaded. But the outcome of it all was the reorganization of city government by the end of the 14th century upon an essentially democratic basis, be it that the old patrician city council was dissolved and henceforth was to be recruited only from the guilds, as in Brunswick and Augsburg, or that the patrician council was merely enlarged by the addition of representatives of the guilds, as in Frankfort and Nuremberg; or, finally, that the council was elected by larger bodies of citizens, embracing both the guilds and the patricians, as in Cologne. In any case, the result was tantamount to the extension of the franchise, directly and indirectly, to all property-holding citizens, in other words to the establishment of a genuine republic.

We have seen how the whole development of German cities, from the 10th to the 15th century, tended toward a constant widening of public rights and public responsibilities; how from settlements of artisans, employed by the bishop and living around the bishop’s castle, these cities in course of time changed into independent communities of free citizens, making and executing their own laws, electing their own magistrates, ranking with the princes and barons as one of the greatest and most honored estates of the empire.

Remarkable as this victorious development of city freedom is, it is equally remarkable that at none of its stages, not even after the triumph of the guilds over the patriciate, there was to be found in these communities anything resembling the radical de-
mocracy which in some of the mediaeval Italian cities led to such frequent and sudden transitions from mob rule to military autocracy. Even after the success of the guild revolution, in the 14th century, the constitution of the great German cities was essentially that of an aristocracy upon a democratic basis, thus reconciling, for a time at least, those contrasts of progress and stability, of liberty and order, the clash of which makes the larger half of the world’s history.

Let me illustrate this union of aristocratic and democratic principles in the German city administration of the 14th and 15th centuries by a brief account of the position which the city council at that time held in municipal affairs. In the first place it is to be noted that both the eligibility and the suffrage of the city council was hedged in, even after the democratic reorganization of the city government, by restrictions which, from a modern point of view, appear well nigh exclusive. To give concrete examples: In the city of Speyer, the final victory of the guilds over the patriciate was obtained in 1349. The patricians were forced to renounce all their former privileges; only by entering a guild themselves they were, henceforth, to have access to municipal politics; the council was, henceforth, to be taken from the guilds. But in what manner? By direct election through the members of the guilds? No! Each of the 14 guilds was to propose four of its members to the retiring council, and out of this total of 56 candidates, the retiring council was to choose 28, in other words, it was practically given power, under advice from the guilds, to appoint its own successor. Or take the case of Strassburg. Here there existed since the middle of the 15th century not only a council in which the guilds had a two-thirds majority over the patricians, but also a so-called large council, a lower house consisting of some 300 members, chosen representatives of all the guilds. But again, the members of the council proper were elected partly by the council of the preceding year, partly by the executive committees of the guilds, and not by the guilds at large. As for the lower council, which indeed proceeded from election by the members of the guilds at large, it had no power of initiative, and assembled only at the call of the council proper. In Strassburg then as well as in Speyer, the composition of the city council presents a mixture of aristocratic and democratic features. And, even in democratic Cologne, where 36 members of the 51 constituting the council were elected from the guilds by the citizens at large, the choice of the remaining 15 was left to the council itself, so that even here we have by no means a democracy pure and simple.

It was in entire accord with these conservative methods of its election that the council of the German cities in the 14th and
15th centuries directed its constitutional policy on the one hand toward exercising exclusive control of the municipal offices, on the other toward maintaining a strict continuity of administration. As to the first point, it is no exaggeration to say that the council remained everywhere, throughout the history of German city freedom, the sole owner and dispenser of official authority. It appointed from its own midst not only the chief executive officer of the town, the Burgomaster, but it also delegated habitually certain of its members to take charge of special branches of the city administration, of the budget, the taxes, the building regulations, the market police, the fortifications, the military and so forth. As most of these offices were unpaid, or at any rate yielded only modest remunerations, they were positions of honor rather than of financial advantage, and the “scramble for office” has rarely played a disastrous part in German city politics; although it is obvious that this system, under unscrupulous management, could easily be perverted into a means for indirect self-enrichment and misuse of public funds.

As to the continuity of administrative principles which, as I said, was another decisive feature of German city life, resulting from the peculiar make-up of the council, it may be sufficient here to point to the important and authoritative rôle which in many cities was given to the council even after its termination of active service. As typical examples of this practice may be cited once more the cities of Speyer and Strassburg. In Speyer not only the council of the preceding year but also that of the year before the preceding year remained in semi-activity, i.e., each of these past councils or both of them might, at any time, be called upon by the then officiating council to give advice or aid, and in especially important matters, for instance in the contraction of city debts, this co-operation of the present council with the two preceding ones was made obligatory. In Strassburg an even more permanent organization was worked out during the 15th century. Here not the whole outgoing council, but a select number of this council, the so-called Twenty-One, remained in office as advisors to the new council, and this committee of the old council in the long run developed into the highest administrative body of the community with life tenure of its members and almost sovereign authority.

While thus, in most German cities, certain superior powers were instituted to control the measures of the council from above, no restrictions of its sphere of action were created from below. Nowhere did there exist, in the 14th and 15th centuries, a popular body to which the council was legally and regularly held accountable. In other words, the city council, although proceeding, in the last analysis at least, from the choice of the people,
i.e., the great body of property holding citizens, was yet clad, after once having been elected, with well-nigh absolute authority, the only limitation to its rule being a moral one: the feeling of responsibility to the whole community, the spirit of subordination of private to public interests. It is a high tribute to the integrity and disinterestedness of public life in the German cities of the 14th and 15th centuries, that, in spite of this absence of effective constitutional safe-guards, the cities corresponded on the whole to the ideal which Erasmus had in mind when he called Strassburg a "monarchia absque tyrannide, aristocratia sine factionibus, democratia sine tumultu (a monarchy without tyranny, an aristocracy without factions, a democracy without disorder)."

II.

Thus far I have spoken of the political aspect of Mediaeval German city government. Let us now look at its social side; in particular let us examine the question: how far did this governmental system tend to reconcile with each other private enterprise and devotion to public tasks?

One of the commonest arguments against socialism is the assertion that governmental interference with competition suppresses the spirit of individual enterprise and, therefore, undermines the very root of progress and civilization. However reasonable this argument may seem theoretically, it is not borne out by the experience of the German cities in the Middle Ages. It would indeed be superfluous to dwell here in detail on the extraordinary activity which these cities developed during the 14th and 15th centuries in nearly every domain of industry and art. There can be no question that, in the middle of the 15th century, Germany was the very centre of the world’s market. Danzig and Lübeck held the key to the traffic between Finland, in the furthest north-east, and Lisbon, in the south-west of the continent; Frankfurt, Nuremberg and Augsburg were entrepots of commerce between the Levant and England, and in Venice and London as well as in Bergen and Novgorod the German business man played a leading part. German wheat and rye, German beer and wine were exported in large quantities to Scandinavia, the Netherlands and England; German manufactures in iron, bronze, silver and gold, German woolen and linen stuffs were among the most sought for in Europe, while printing and book-making, even to the middle of the 16th century, were considered as almost exclusively German crafts. As to the Fine Arts, I need only allude to the wonderful development of religious painting from the naive realism of the Van Eycks to the full artistic freedom of Dürer and Holbein, or remind you of the remarkable and wide-spread
activity in wood carving, stone sculpture and bronze founding which made the cathedrals of German cities treasure houses of homely grace and phantastic beauty, and which attracted to the work shops of such masters as Adam Krafft or Peter Vischer crowned heads no less than ecclesiastical dignitaries or prominent financiers from all over Europe.

Now, the fact cannot be gainsaid that this extraordinary industrial and artistic activity which was displayed in the German cities of the 14th and 15th centuries, received its original impulse from organizations founded upon decidedly socialistic principles, the guilds, and that the predominance of these guilds in municipal life gave to the city government of that time a decidedly paternal character. Shall we then say that this extraordinary activity was brought about in spite of these socialistic and paternal principles? Or is it not more reasonable to suppose that these very principles had an important share in making this activity what it was, by assigning to individual exertion its right sphere in the larger whole of collective life? That this was the function fulfilled by the guilds in their best time at least there can be little doubt.

The guild was, as I have said before, an association of artisans belonging to the same craft, intended to facilitate production and to regulate competition among themselves. But it would be a mistake to think that these economic aims of the guild, although clearly fundamental, had been its only aims. Closely interwoven with these economic interests, and of equal if not superior importance, was the moral purpose of the organization. The guild regulated in the first place the technical and moral training of the individual artisan; it set up norms for his daily conduct and habits; it gave him a standard of corporate honor; it consecrated his work. The young apprentice, having been assigned to a master of his future craft for his professional education, held toward him not only the relation of pupil to teacher, but he became a member of the master’s household and was subject to his paternal discipline. The master, on his part, became responsible to the guild for seeing to it that this youth be brought up in the fear of God and kindliness toward his fellows, and in strict compliance with the rules of his art. If, at the end of the years of apprenticeship, it be found that the training of the boy through the master’s neglect had been left defective, he would be given into another master’s care, the first one to pay all the expenses and a fine to the guild in addition. If, on the other hand, the boy showed no application or aptitude for his craft, he would not be allowed to go on to higher stages of professional education.

More independent was the position of the young artisan after he had successfully passed the years of apprenticeship and
had by the assembled guild been declared a journeyman. Now he was free to travel and to hire himself out, for stated periods, to masters of his trade in the towns in which he temporarily settled. But again he was held, wherever he settled, to the strictest rules of professional etiquette and local ordinance. That these rules were on the whole calculated to strengthen the artisan's good manners, self-respect and esprit de corps, we may infer from such regulations as these: that no journeyman was allowed to stay away from the master's house over night or bring another master's journeyman to his lodgings; that no journeyman was permitted to walk bare-headed on the street; that every one was obliged to carry with him when appearing in public the emblems of his trade, the blacksmith his hammer, the carpenter his measure, the chimney-sweep his scraper, and so on.

But even when at last the professional goal had been reached, when the apprentice and journeyman had become a master himself, he was to find his highest honor in serving his craft; his own success was only to be a means for advancing the cause of the community. What the guild expected of him may perhaps best be shown by quoting from a quaint little pamphlet on communal matters which appeared at Mayence in 1518, under the title: "A Christian Adhortation to a Pious Life." "For this purpose mainly," says the author of the pamphlet, "are working unions and fraternities formed, that their whole life be guided by Christian discipline and love, and that their work itself be consecrated. For if we would work according to God's law, we must not work for gain only, for that is no blessing and brings harm to the soul. Man is to work for God's honor and on account of the blessing that the soul derives from industry. Also, to be sure, in order to have what we need for maintaining ourselves and our people and what contributes to our joy and comfort; no less, however, in order to give to the poor and the sick from the fruits of our labor. Therein consists the worth of artisans' guilds and unions. Consider therefore well, dear Christian, in working, why you work; whether you keep God in mind and not your gain alone; and whether you care for the brethren in your fraternity, for all that concerns them, in life and in death."

It is easy to see how this conception of the relation of the individual to the community led the guilds to a labor legislation which in many ways anticipated the demands of modern socialism. If the monthly and yearly output of a given craft was regulated by statute; if a normal working day was established whose beginning and end was announced by the town bell; if night work was forbidden; if the wages of the journeyman were fixed by authority of the guild as a whole; if in order to facilitate public
control, the workshops must be built so as to face the street; if
the raw material necessary for a given branch of industry was
bought by the guild and apportioned among its members; if no
master was allowed to engage more than a fixed number of
journeymen; if none was allowed to keep more than one store,
and so forth—we recognize in all this a clearly defined policy, the
policy of making the individual responsible for every professional
act of his to the larger professional body to which he belonged,
the policy of developing in each individual a high sense of cor-
porate honor, the policy of substituting public incentives of con-
duct for private incentives. In other words, we recognize the
prevailingly moral trend of labor organization under the guild
system.
And the same is true of the practical working of what I
called before the paternal methods of German municipal govern-
ment in the 14th and 15th centuries. The weak side of this gov-
ernment lay in its provisions for things that had to do merely
with bodily safety and external comfort. Especially the sanitary
regulations were, to put it mildly, conspicuous for their scarcity
and unobtrusiveness. The less frequented streets were sometimes
so narrow that a rider on horseback, riding in the middle and
holding his lance horizontally on the saddle, would touch the
houses on either side. Down into the 15th century whole quarters
of the town remained unpaved, and the difference between a
street and a dumping place was by no means universally recog-
nized. Of the mud which in this way accumulated in course of
time between the houses, it is probably impossible for us to form
an adequate conception. In the absence of a sewer system, the
surface water would mostly flow in a gutter in the middle of the
street; and as this gutter was commonly utilized as a drainage
for all sorts of domestic and factory overflow, the variety of
odors emanating from it may be imagined. If we add to this
that, with the exception of an occasional lantern at a bridge or
gate, there were no provisions for lighting the streets at night,
it is clear that a modern visitor to a 15th century town in Ger-
many would find more things to criticize than did the Cardinal
Enea Silvio, whose enthusiastic eulogy on the cleanliness and
comfort of the German cities of his time I quoted in the begin-
ning. Not even the ravages of the terrible plagues which, since
the middle of the 14th century, swept over the continent with
more or less periodical regularity seem to have led to reforms in
municipal sanitation and common sense.
From a mediaeval point of view, however, these were con-
siderations of minor importance. It was for the individual to
protect himself as best he could against those evils which seemed,
as divine visitations, inevitable and beyond human control. But
it was clearly the duty of the authorities to see to it that the individual keep himself strictly within the station allotted to him in the social order, that he fulfill conscientiously his duties toward the community, that he make service to the community his highest and unalterable law.

Here is the root of those thousand and one municipal ordinances which regulated the dress and the domestic life of the different classes. It may seem strange to us that in Regensburg, for instance, only the members of the city council and their sons were allowed to wear garments of silk or velvet; that with the exception of these same persons, no citizen was permitted to wear silver or gold finger rings save one on the thumb. It may seem unreasonable that in Frankfort servants and journeymen were forbidden colored boots or pointed shoes. It may seem an encroachment upon personal liberty that in Nuremberg there existed city regulations which determined with great detail in what manner citizens should celebrate engagements and weddings, how many people might be invited to the announcement of the engagement, what refreshments should be served to the serenaders on the street, what sort of persons were to be asked to the wedding dinner, what courses should be served and what kind of wine, and so forth. But the spirit of these regulations, from the mediaeval point of view, is clear. They were meant to accentuate the place which each individual had in the social organism, to emphasize his moral obligation to maintain, even in his outward appearance and conduct, the peculiar traditions of his class. And although these regulations were probably often enough disregarded, although they must have given a good deal of annoyance to the unruly and restless, there seems to be no reason for doubting that on the whole their moral effect was good, that they contributed to develop that steadfastness of purpose, that self-assurance, personal dignity and respect for law which go with any kind of clearly recognized and firmly established social gradation.

And similar seem to have been the tendency and effect of the numerous city enactments regarding the sale of manufactures and food stuffs. Here again, what led to paternal principles of municipal legislation was not so much the utilitarian desire to protect the community against the losses and dangers involved, for instance, in the consumption of adulterated food or in the carelessness of building operations; it was rather the moral aim of giving each citizen a chance for useful and productive work, and of encouraging him to energetic self-discipline in solidarity of workmanship and honesty of business transactions.

The measures adopted by the city government to secure this result may often appear to us primitive and clumsy. It was
clearly an extreme case of monopoly when, as was often done, the city forbade its citizens to buy certain products and manufactures except from home producers and manufacturers, at the same time determining by official ordinance the prices at which these goods were to be sold. It was perhaps excessive insistence upon carefulness of work when, as was also often the case, artisans were forbidden by law to accept orders before they had carried out the previous ones; or when the punishment for the sale of defective wares would frequently consist not only in the confiscation of these wares, but also in the public destruction of the workbench from which they had come. We may smile when we read of such an ordinance as this, which occurs in the statutes of some Austrian towns: "No fisherman, selling fresh fish, shall be allowed to wear either hat or cap; bare-headed he shall stand on the market in sunshine or rain, in summer or winter, in order that he may long to get away and all the fresher sell his fish."

But can there be any doubt that on the whole these paternal methods accomplished results for which we of to-day have every reason to look with envy to the cities of the 15th century? Can there be any doubt that the rivalry in good work, and not the rivalry in large profits, was made by them the very foundation of industrial and business life? And can there be any doubt that this truly moral competition proved so strong an incentive for collective activity and enterprise, that mainly through it, the German cities of that time out-distanced those of most of the other European countries?

III.

I have come to the last part of my subject, the question: What was done by Mediaeval German cities to foster ideal aspirations?

Most briefly may I here touch upon what doubtless will occur to every one as the most conspicuous evidence of municipal idealism left to us from the Middle Ages: The great cathedrals which even to-day tower above the ancient towns of Germany as monumental symbols of a past rich to overflowing in religious fervor and devotion. Whether these churches were built (as was mostly the case) from private subscriptions instituted by the diocesan authorities and monastic orders, or whether (as became more frequent toward the end of the Middle Ages) the city as such engaged in raising the necessary building funds, they remain astounding feats of collective energy and sacrifice; especially if we remember how small, according to our notions, the cities were which undertook such colossal tasks. When, toward the end of the 14th century, the city of Ulm determined upon the
building of a cathedral, the tower of which was to rise to a height of 475 feet, it had hardly more than 15,000 inhabitants. The tower of St. Stephen at Vienna, at the sight of which, according to Enea Silvio some Bosnian nobles soon after its completion exclaimed: “It must have cost more than one would pay for the whole kingdom of Bosnia!” was built by a town of certainly not more than 20,000 inhabitants. And even Strassburg, when in 1439 the northern tower of its cathedral was finished, had only some forty or fifty thousand. That such undertakings, then, must have united all classes and ages of the city population in devotion to one great ideal cause, is obvious and needs no further illustration.

One question, however, I should like to consider somewhat more fully, the question: What did the German cities of the 14th and 15th centuries do for ennobling and elevating the character of popular holidays? Here there is clearly a weak point in American life; here individualism, to which we owe so many of our blessings, has produced nothing but evil. In our care for the rights of the individual, we fail to realize that it is a matter of public concern how people celebrate; we fail to realize that a holiday, instead of being a vulgar distraction or even enervating dissipation, should be made a real recreation, should give us added strength and a higher heart, should inspire our work with nobler ideals and thus be a lasting benefit to the whole community. Can this be said of the “Hideous Fourth of July,” with its barbaric noises and its meaningless excitement, or the still more demoralizing Labor Day, with its complete absence of spiritual appeals and its nauseating omnipresence of Dime Museum and Music Hall? I have often wondered why this country, the home of world reformers, should not as yet have produced a reformer of public festivals.

Now, I am far from denying that there was a great deal of dissipation and excess in Mediaeval German cities. To deny this would mean shutting one’s ear to the testimony not only of a great mass of contemporary sermons and satires but also of a large number of laws passed by the cities against revelry and disturbance of the peace. What I do say is, that these evil tendencies were counteracted not so much by prohibition as by the cultivation of a strong, masculine, joyousness, of jovial earnestness and of thoughtful humor; by the cultivation, in other words, of the spirit which blends the earthly and the divine, which clothes the divine in the familiar forms of every-day life and which lifts the actual and the commonplace into the realm of spiritual experience and eternal truth. If we think for a moment of one of those processions which might often be seen on the streets of a German town of the 15th century as parts of an Easter, Passion,
or Corpus Christi play, processions in which the great venerable figures of sacred lore, God the Father Himself with the Heavenly Host, the Saviour and the disciples, the prophets and the patriarchs would solemnly move on through the gazing crowd, accompanied or followed by representatives of Medieval life: kings and bishops, knights and citizens and by all sorts of creations of popular fancy, death and the devil, the synagogue and the church, vices and virtues; and if we then call to mind the dreadful monotony, barrenness and unsuggestiveness of a modern Labor Day parade, we will, I think, be convinced that the term "advance of civilization" is of a very doubtful value, we will agree that these popular religious plays of the latter Middle Ages must have exerted a deepening, quickening and cultivating influence such as is exerted by no popular festivity of our own time.

Let me outline, in closing, at least one of these plays, an Easter play performed in 1464 in the Hanse town of Wismar, in order to make clear that wonderful blending of the secular and religious, the material and the ideal which gives to the city life of the end of the Middle Ages its unique and ineffaceable charm.

The play begins with the resurrection of Christ, but the resurrection takes place, not in Jerusalem, but in the good old town of Wismar itself. Pilate, who appears as the type of a stately, somewhat phlegmatic burgomaster, hears a rumor that Christ's followers intend to steal the body; and therefore details four knights to watch the grave, one on the north, one on the south, one on the east, and one on the west. The knights behave in a manner altogether suitable to representatives of that vagrant soldiery which in those times of club-law were an object of both terror and ridicule to the peaceful citizen. They brag about their prowess, clatter with their swords, threaten to smash any one who shall dare to come near them; and then go quietly to sleep, having first made an arrangement with the night-watchman, who is stationed on the steeple of the cathedral, to keep on the lookout in their place. The watchman sees a vessel approaching on the Baltic sea. He tries to wake the knights, but in vain. He hears the dogs barking, and again vainly tries to arouse the sleepers. He calls out the midnight hour. And now a chorus of angels is heard on high, the earth is shaken. Jesus arises and proclaims, in solemn words, the redemption of mankind.

From these scenes, in which the burlesque and the serious are so quaintly mingled, we now pass on to events of sublime simplicity and serene grandeur. Jesus descends into hell to rescue the souls of the Fathers. His approach is foreshadowed in the joyous expectancy of the waiting souls. They see a wondrous light spreading overhead. Abel is the first to interpret this as a
sign that the time of their redemption is nigh; but the others at once join with him. Adam rejoices in the hope of regaining Paradise. Isaiah is sure that this is the light of God; for is it not an evident fulfillment of what is written in his own book of prophecy (he quotes himself in Latin): “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light”? And Seth recalls the twig which five thousand six hundred years ago he planted at God’s behest that it might grow into the tree of salvation (the cross). Now John the Baptist appears as forerunner of the Saviour, and announces his coming. In vain do Lucifer and Satan summon their hosts, in vain do they lock the gates of hell. Surrounded by the archangels, Christ advances. With a few majestic words he silences Satan, the “Accursed serpent”; with a mere sign of his hand he bursts the gates; Lucifer he commands to be bound until the day of judgment. And now the souls stream forward, exulting, jubilating, stammering with joy and gratitude; and Jesus takes them by the hand and greets them, and then commits them to the care of Michael, the archangel, that he may lead them upward into Paradise.

At the end of the play we return once more to the sphere of the burlesque, to a satire upon social conditions of the fifteenth century. Through the rescue of the souls of the Fathers, hell has become desolate; Lucifer, therefore, chained as he is, sends his servants out to catch new souls. But the devils return empty-handed and discouraged; through Christ’s death and resurrection, they say, the world has become so good that very little chance is left for hell. Lucifer, however, is not discouraged. He has heard that a great plague is raging just now in the city of Lübeck, the neighbor and rival of Wismar, and he sends his messengers out for a second time, to try their fortunes in the Hanse town. And this time they come back laden with souls of sinners, sinners of every kind and description. There is the baker, who deceived his customers by using too much yeast in his bread and too little flour. There is the shoemaker, who sold sheepskin for Cordovan leather. There is the tailor, who stole half of his customers’ cloth. There is the inn-keeper, who adulterated his beer and served it with too much foam in the pot. There is the butcher, who stuffed his sausages with all sorts of refuse. There is the grocer, who used false measure and weight. There is even the priest, who so often overslept the mass and so often celebrated the evening service in the tavern. In short—this is the moral pointed out by the concluding chorus—“Lucifer is right; the power of evil has not yet been broken. Sin is still mighty in the land, and only by cleaving to God and his word can we be saved. And only then can we truly sing with the angels: “Christ is risen.””
Is it too much to say that where plays like these could form the main attraction of a popular holiday, there must have existed a degree of popular interest in spiritual matters and in questions of public morality which it is hard to overestimate?

I have tried to bring out some of the causes which co-operated to make possible that rare union of liberty and order, of private enterprise and devotion to common interests, of material prosperity and ideal aspirations which gave to the German cities of the 14th and 15th centuries their unrivaled position in the larger whole of the empire. Upon the causes which from the 16th century on, led to the more or less rapid decay of the German cities, until at the beginning of the 19th only a shadow of their former glory was left, I cannot here enter. Suffice it to say that these causes lay less in the constitution and policy of the cities themselves than in the unfortunate turn which the affairs of the Empire at large took since the partial failure of the religious reformation, the ascendancy of the territorial princes, the shifting of the centre of the world's trade from the North Sea and the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, the misery of the Thirty Years' War. With the re-establishment of the German Empire as a world power, the German cities also have regained their former influence and prosperity and the modern Hamburg and Bremen, Frankfort and Cologne, Nuremberg and Strassburg may, in commercial and industrial matters at least, well challenge comparison with their Mediaeval forerunners. The remarkable success of modern German city government has so often been dwelt upon and held up as model to American cities, that I refrain from entering upon this subject. But perhaps it may be said that the success of the modern German municipal administration also is largely due to that fine union of stability and progress, of intellectual open-mindedness and constitutional conservatism which characterized the administration of the Mediaeval cities.
January 24, 1911

Mr. Harry Pratt Judson, President,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Judson:-

I have your favor of 23rd inst. in regard to the Germanistic Society of Chicago.

The nearest approach that I have to an understanding of the German language is that in its sounds and gutturals it resembles broad Scotch, with which I am entirely familiar. On looking over the list of lectures delivered before the Society between November 1, 1907, and May 1, 1910, I find very few that I can understand even the title of.

Besides this, if the membership is confined to those of German birth and those of American birth, I am not eligible as I belong to neither class.

I cannot therefore see any object in my becoming a member of the society.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
In the name of our great deliberative body,

In memory of our late President,

We hereby announce the following:

The First National Bank

Chicago

I have the honor to lay your request to the consideration of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors has decided to grant you the request for the purpose of enabling you to conduct your business efficiently.

The Board of Directors has authorized me to express its appreciation for your services and to extend its best wishes for your success.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
January 24, 1911.

President Harry Pratt Judson,

University of Chicago,

Chicago, Illinois.

Dear President Judson:

I am in receipt of yours of the 23rd instant and regret that I cannot see my way to joining the "Germanistic Society." It is totally out of my line, and I am in so many other things that I think I had better keep out of this. In addition to that, I am neither of German nor American birth.

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]
January 5th, 1917

Dear Mr. President: 

I have just received a copy of the banks statement for the week ending December 31st. We are now receiving the "Government's" policy to significantly cut our capital reserve which I think and better keep our capital skillfully out of our Reorg. I think it is very wise for these courses and the bank will reap out of it. I am very much interested in the new plan.

Very sincerely,

[Signature]
THE NATIONAL CITY BANK
OF CHICAGO

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

January 24, 1911.

President Harry Prouty, Jr.,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

May The Wishes of the 23rd
December be realized. I hereby see my way to
joining the "All American Club." It is
practically an All-American, and I am in touch with
many others, and I think I had better keep out
of your circle. In deference to that, I am neither
closer nor farther born.

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]
My dear Mr. Judson:—

I am in receipt of your favor of the 23rd instant, asking me to become a member of the Germanistic Society of Chicago. I appreciate the honor, and accept with pleasure.

As I expect to be out of Chicago on April 1st next, when the annual dues become payable, I send you herewith my check for Twenty-five Dollars, ($25.00).

I trust the Secretary of the Society in giving notices of lectures will state whether they are to be given in the English or the German tongue. If in the latter, it would be an embarrassment for me to try to understand the lectures.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

To President Harry Pratt Judson,

University of Chicago,

Chicago.
To: John M. Lawler

From: [Signature]

Subject: Important Notice

I am writing to inform you of a recent event at the

50th Anniversary Celebration of the

Quartermaster Corps. An occurrence of great signif-

icance has taken place that I believe warrants your

attention. I am enclosing a copy of the official

announcement for your review.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
January 27, 1911

Dear Mr. Guenzel:

Mr. Ira Morris, 3401 Michigan Avenue, writes President Judson that he would be very much pleased to become a member of the Germanistic Society of Chicago.

Faithfully yours,

J. E. L.

Private Secretary

Mr. Louis Guenzel,
1136 - 115 Adams St., Chicago.
January 28, 1921

Mr. Howard, 5401 Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

President Ludwig, I am writing to inquire if I may be very much pleased to become a member of the Germanic Society of Chicago.

Sincerely yours,

A. B. P. Secretary

Mr. Louis General

1136 - 1124 Adams St., Chicago.
January 30, 1911.

Dr. Harry Pratt Judson,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Dr. Judson:

I have your letter of the 23rd inst., in regard to the Germanistic Society of Chicago. I understand the annual dues are $25.00 and I will be glad to join in this subscription. Please let me know when the dues are payable.

Very truly yours,

Harold DeCourcy
January 20, 1911

To the President of the University of Chicago,

My dear Mr. junction:

I have your letter of the 18th inst. in regard

to the Germanic Society of Chicago. I understand
the summer issue will be published and I will be glad to join in

the subscription. Please let me know when the issue is

expectation.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
Germanistic Society of Chicago  
February 9, 1931.

My Dear Mr. President:

In compliance with your request I return to you the enclosed letters, thanking you most heartily for your exceedingly successful work in behalf of our Society.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

President Harry Pratt Judson,
The University of Chicago.
Mr. Dean H. Proctor:

In accordance with your letter dated October 24, 1938, I am happy to report that you are most cordially invited to attend the meeting of the University of Chicago, scheduled for January 1939.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

President, University of Chicago.
February 21, 1911

Dear Mr. Guenzel:—

I beg to acknowledge your favor of the 9th inst. with letters from Messrs. Ira N. Morris, A. A. Sprague and C. L. Hutchinson returned to me. I think I have already written to you to add to the list of those who have accepted membership the name of Harold F. McCormick. I may add in like manner the name of Harold H. Swift. I understand that my secretary has already sent to you his check for $25. The letter I am herewith enclosing. These five names complete the number which I undertook to obtain in the way of additional members.

With best regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

Mr. Louis Guenzel,
115 Adams St., Chicago.
Dear Mr. [Name]:

I beg to acknowledge your favor of the 20th instant.

With letters from Rev. Mr. [Name] A. S. Smith, and others, I have been long wanting to hear from you what I am sure will have received your notice of the letters I received from the hand of Mr. [Name] A. S. Smith. I may add, I have long been in the possession of the name of Mr. [Name] A. S. Smith, and ever mentioning that my secretary was an admirer of his name, to whom I wrote a letter for the purpose of restoration.

The letter I have received from you, I have taken the liberty to offer to Mr. [Name] A. S. Smith, with the same compliments, I am,

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Mr. [Name], General

If [Name] and [Name]
February 21, 1911

My dear Mr. Swift:

Your favor of the 8th inst. reached me in Florida.

I thank you very much for your courtesy in acceding to my request with regard to the Germanistic Society. The tickets in regard to the lectures are always transferable, and I hope that you will find those who will be interested in using them. If the lectures are given in German by all means you ought to attend, as the cultivation of your German ear will be an interesting piece of education.

With cordial regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Mr. Harold H. Swift,
Union Stock Yards, Chicago.
My dear Mr. Smith:

Your favor of the 6th March, reached me in Portugal.

I think you very much for your communication in regard to the tickets in regard to the International Congress of the Germanic Society. The tickets for the same were reserved for myself and I hope that you will find those who will be interested in the same. If the ticket is not given to you, I will be interested in obtaining a copy for you.

Given in Germany on the 1st of March, 1913.

With cordial regards,

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

My dear [Name],

[Signature]
Germanistic Society

OF

CHICAGO

March 4, 1921

My Dear Mr. President:

In looking over the membership list, I find that in all probability the following members could be induced to serve on the nominating committee:

Mr. Henry Bartholomay, Mr. LeGrand S. Burton,
Mr. Geo. C. Claussenius, Mr. Fritz Eberlein,
Dr. Hugo Franz, Mr. F. von Frantzius,
Mr. Adam Ortslefen, Mr. Ferd. C. Schapper,
Mr. E. W. Wagner, Dr. A. C. Wiener,
Mr. William Wilms, Mr. Fridolin Pabst,
Dr. L. H. Abele.

As the nominating committee shall consist of five members, I would suggest for this committee:

Mr. E. W. Wagner, Dr. A. C. Wiener,
Mr. Ferd. C. Schapper, Mr. Geo. C. Claussenius,
Dr. L. H. Abele.

In case this selection is satisfactory to you, I could notify the gentlemen at once and arrange for a meeting on Tuesday or Wednesday next, if your private secretary could inform me by telephone of your decision. I find that I was mistaken as to the time to be granted between date of notification and date of meeting. This time limit is not five but fifteen days and as the notices can hardly be sent out before the ninth or tenth of this month, the meeting could not be held before the 27th. May I ask you to kindly inform me which date after March 26th will be convenient for you.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

President Harry Pratt Judson,
The University of Chicago.
March 6, 1911

Dear Mr. Guenzel:

Yours of the 4th inst. received. The list you suggest for the Committee on Nominations seems to me entirely satisfactory. I will ask my secretary to telephone the data to you so that you can send out the notices immediately. I understand that the meeting cannot be held before the 27th. If possible, let it be on the 27th. While I very likely shall be in town through the entire week this is the week of recess at the University, and I might possibly be away.

With cordial regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Mr. Louis Guenzel,
Ashland Block, Chicago.
Dear Mr. [Name],

Yours of the 4th inst. received. The fact you
suggested for the committee on nomination seems to me entirely meta-
for taking. I will see my secretary to telegraph the same to you on
short notice that you can read out the notice immediately. If necessary, for the
meeting, can not be held before the 25th. It would, for it
be on the 26th. When I very much afraid to town strength the
extra week time to the week of course of the University, and if
might possibly go away.

With very grateful regards, I am

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
March 6, 1911

Dear Mr. Crane:

Mr. Louis Guenzel, Secretary of the Germanistic Society, tells me that you sent in your resignation some time ago. I don't like to urge you to do anything, or not to do anything, but at the same time I should be very sorry to lose you from membership. The Society has been doing a good work. We sent Manly to Göttingen last year, and this year we are sending Michelson. We had last fall Professor Lorenz Morsbach from Göttingen, who was a great success here. I am getting several additions to the Society; Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Harold McCormick and several others have joined recently.

Cordially,

[F. P. J.]

Mr. Charles R. Crane,
Crane Company, Chicago.
Dear Mr. Crane:

Mr. Louis Gurney, Secretary of the Geometric
Society, tells me that you went to your recent meeting some time ago
and you told me that you want to do something or not to do anything, but
at the same time I decided to very early to leave you your own way.

The society has been going a good while. We have found it difficult
to get new members, but I have been working hard on this problem. We have found
that people are interested in geometry and that interest has been growing recently.

I am asking several of the members of the society to help you with
the Hectograph and some of the articles have been recently accepted.

Sincerely,

Mr. Crane Company, Office

Mr. Crane Company, Office
Germanistic Society

OF

CHICAGO

June 2, 1901

My Dear Mr. President:

You have perhaps noticed that our treasurer, Mr. John V. Clarke, died last Wednesday. The checks covering dues for the current year are all drawn to the order of John V. Clarke, Treasurer, and can be deposited and credited to the Society's account at the Hibernian Bank, but no money can be drawn without an order from the Board of Directors. I, therefore, beg to suggest that a meeting of the Board of Directors be called as soon as possible in order to elect a new treasurer, and I would ask you to kindly name date and time convenient for you.

Enclosing membership list asked for by your private secretary, I remain

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Recording Secretary,
Suite 1136-72 W. Adams St.

President Harry Pratt Judson,
The University of Chicago.
Mr. Dean of Education:

Your recent letter martial.

The two-year course at Notre Dame has been added to the catalog of courses, and the students have been very interested in the new material. I believe that the addition of this course will be of great benefit to the college.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Professor of Education

[Seal]
My Dear Mr. President:

I have not yet been able to secure a new treasurer for the Germanistic Society, and as you will probably leave Chicago in the near future for your summer vacation, I would ask you to kindly sign the enclosed letter, into which I might then insert the name of the gentlemen willing to serve.

In case none of the three gentlemen suggested at our last meeting should accept the position, would it be agreeable to you if I approached Mr. Charles L. Strobel?

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Recording Secretary,
Suite 1135-72 W. Adams Street.

President Harry Pratt Judson,
The university of Chicago.
My dear Mr. President:

I have not yet heard from you to announce a new promotion for the General Electric Power Plant. I am looking forward to your summer vacation. I trust you will enjoy a well-deserved leisure time.

In this note, I wish to express my concern about the situation that arose earlier. It is imperative that we take action to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

With kind wishes,

[Signature]

Respectfully,

[Name]

To: The President

Subject: Request for Action
Chicago, June 17, 1911

Dear Mr. Guenzel:

Hereewith I am returning notification in blank duly signed. Certainly I should approve Mr. Strobel.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Mr. Louis Guenzel,
1136 - 72 W. Adams St., Chicago
Dear Mr. Gougeot,

Hersfield [sic] I am not yet notified of position to

CECINITY I spra in the President's

Very Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

il. Found Gougeot

LJPE - M. Warren & Co.
My Dear Mr. President:

Kindly pardon me for this late reply to your favor of July the 17th, but I had left Chicago for Denver on July the 16th and did not return until July the 24th. When I tried to communicate with Consul Geissler on that date, I was informed that he was out of town and would not return until the following day, July 25th. On that very same day I met with an accident and, in consequence thereof, was confined to my bed until yesterday.

I have now submitted Dr. Schmidt's letter to Consul Geissler, according to your instructions, and hasten to return it with apologies for the unavoidable delay.

I am very glad to hear of the enthusiasm Professor Michelson has aroused and hope Dr. Schmidt will convince himself in the fall of the importance of our City and of its University if he has not already done so.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Recording Secretary.

President Harry Pratt Judson,
The University of Chicago.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1911.

Doctor Harry Pratt Judson,
President, University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Doctor Judson:

My attention has been called
to the announcement in the annual catalog of the
University of Chicago to the effect that Professor
A. A. Michelson was exchange professor representing
the university at Göttingen in the summer semester
of 1911. So far, this Office has had no special
information as to the establishment of this exchange
system between the University of Chicago and foreign
universities, and I would therefore esteem it a favor
if you would direct your secretary to supply any
details with respect to this system which might be of
interest in the Commissioner's forthcoming Annual
Report. As the matter is about ready for press, an
early response to this request would be greatly
appreciated.

Very respectfully,

[Signature]

Acting Commissioner.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON

October 27, 1911

My dear Doctor Judson,

My attention has been called

to the announcement in the recent catalog of the
University of Chicago to the effect that Professor
A. N. Maclean has been elected Professor of
the University of Chicago to the Department of

The specimen of action in the University of Chicago to the Department of

My congratulations and extend my best wishes to Professor

If you would desire your secretary to supply any

greeting with reference to the subject which might be of
interest in the Commissioner's forthcoming volume,

I believe in the report to report more of these, to

early response to this request would be greatly

appreciated.

Very respectfully,

Acting Commissioner.
Chicago, November 17, 1911

Dear Sir:—

Your favor of the 27th of October was duly received. Members of the Germanistic Society of Chicago have for half a dozen years past provided funds which have enabled us to carry on an exchange with German institutions.

In accordance with that plan Professor Hermann Oncken, Professor of History in the University of Giessen, lectured in the Department of History for six months, during the autumn quarter of 1905 and the winter quarter of 1906.

Dr. Heinrich August Alexander Kraeger, Professor of the History of Literature and Art at the Royal Academy of Art in Dusseldorf, lectured during the autumn quarter of 1906 and the winter quarter of 1907.

Professor Ernst Daenell, Ph.D., Professor Extraordinarius in the Department of Modern History of the University of Kiel, lectured throughout the autumn quarter of 1908.
Professor Doctor Lorenz Morsbach, Professor of English Philology in the University of Göttingen, lectured during the autumn quarter of 1910.

Professor J. Laurence Laughlin, Head of the Department of Political Economy, gave lectures in Berlin during the spring semester of 1906, one before the University, and seven before "Die Vereinigung für Staatswissenschaftliche Fortbildung", and three lectures also before a similar organization in Cologne.

Professor A. A. Michelson, Head of our Department of Physics, lectured before the University of Göttingen during the spring semester of 1911.

The matter is arranged between the University of Chicago and the Germanistic Society of Chicago on the one hand, and the Department of Education of Berlin on the other.

Very truly yours,

Mr. L. A. Kalbach,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.
Professor Doctor Leonard W. Madory, Professor of Physical Chemistry in the University of California, requests that the Senate consider the question of the

appointment of an Assistant Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry.

The Senate has no objection to consider the question of the appointment of an Assistant Professor of Chemistry, in the Department of Chemistry, in accordance with the requirements of the University of California.
Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 27th of October was duly received. Members of the Germanistic Society of Chicago have for half a dozen years past provided funds which have enabled us to carry on an exchange with German institutions.

In accordance with that plan Professor Hermann Oncken, of the University of Giessen, now of the University of Berlin, lectured in the Department of History of the University of Chicago for six months, during the autumn quarter of 1905 and the winter quarter of 1906.

Professor J. Laurence Laughlin, Head of the Department of Political Economy, gave lectures in Berlin during the spring semester of 1906, one before the University, and seven before "Die Vereinigung für Staatswissenschaftliche Fortbildung", and three lectures also before a similar organization in Cologne.

Dr. Heinrich August Alexander Kräger, Professor of the History of Literature and Art at the Royal Academy of Art in Düsseldorf, lectured in the University of Chicago throughout the autumn quarter of 1906 and the winter quarter of 1907.
Dear Sirs,

Your favor of the 21st of October was only recently received.

Members of the Germanic Society of Chicago have for many years been pushing hard for the establishment of a German Institute in Chicago.

In accordance with the plan previously announced, I now inform you that the University of Chicago and the University of Berlin, in consultation with the Department of History of the University of Chicago, have decided to appoint a professor of Germanic Law during the winter semester of 1926-1927 and to secure the services of a similar organization in Cologne.

The President, August Alexander, President of the

In accordance with the request of the Royal Academy of Arts in Berlin, the University of Chicago has been informed of the appointment of a professor of Germanic Law during the winter quarter of 1925.
Professor Ernst Daenell, Ph.D., Professor Extraordinarius in the Department of Modern History of the University of Kiel, lectured in the University of Chicago throughout the autumn quarter of 1908.

Professor John Matthews Manly, Head of the Department of English, conducted courses in the History of the Drama during the spring semester of 1909 in the University of Göttingen.

Professor Doctor Lorenz Morsbach, Professor of English Philology in the University of Göttingen, lectured in the University of Chicago during the autumn quarter of 1910.

Professor A. A. Michelson, Head of our Department of Physics, lectured before the University of Göttingen during the spring semester of 1911.

The matter is arranged between the University of Chicago and the Germanistic Society of Chicago on the one hand, and the Department of Education of Berlin on the other.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Mr. L. A. Kalbach,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.
Professor Albertblum, F.R.S., Professor of Extension in the Department of Modern History of the University of King's College, London.

In the University of Chicago, Professor of Extension in the Department of History of the University of Chicago.

Professor John M. McDowall, Head of the Department of Geography.

Professor Daniel J. Macdonald, Professor of Geography.

In the University of California, Instructor in the Department of Geography.

Professor A. C. Mckay, Head of the Department of Geography.

In the University of California, Instructor in the Department of Geography.

Semester of 1929.

The matter is arranged between the University of Chicago and the Committee on Extension of the American Geographical Society of Chicago as an acceptance of the offer.

Very truly yours,

F. A. MacKay.
April 13, 1912.

Mr. Louis Guenzel,
Recording Secretary, Germanistic Society,
72 West Adams Street, Chicago.

My dear Mr. Guenzel:—

I enclose my check for $25.00, for dues to the Germanistic Society for the coming year, but would like at the same time to hand in my resignation, as I find that I am not able to attend many of the lectures in the course, as well as unable to understand some of them, because delivered in a foreign tongue.

Very truly yours,

(J. J. Glessner)

(Enclosure)
April 19, 1912

To: Secretary of the Germania Society

Re: Keep Above Street, Chicago

I enclose my check for $50.00 for same as per Germania Society. I am sorry to hear of the recent fire and hope for all to come to the Germania Society for the coming year. I am glad that I was not able to attend many of the functions in the course of the year as well as unable to manage some of them.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

(Please transcribe the signature for proper identification.)
Chicago, June 20, 1912

Mr. J. J. Glessner,
Harvester Bldg., Chicago.

Dear Mr. Glessner:

Mr. Guenzel writes me that you are thinking of withdrawing from the Germanistic Society for the ensuing year. I am reluctant to ask you to withhold your resignation for the present, and yet I am impelled to do so. We are especially anxious during this coming year to hold our membership and in some ways to increase it. I have obtained several new members. Mr. Byron Smith has become a life member and some others have become annual members. Of course I know the innumerable claims upon you in various ways.

I trust that the "Rocks" are all that they could have been to you and yours this summer, and that Mrs. Glessner is rapidly gaining her strength, so that she will come back to us in the autumn in every way restored. I am wondering also whether the bees are as active as ever.

With cordial regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. = L.
Dear Mr. G. E. Clement,

Holland Barge, Chicago.

Greetings,

I am writing to you to express my gratitude for your kind letter of recommendation for the position I am applying for. I appreciate the effort you have made on my behalf.

I have been actively searching for a new position in the field of photography. I am particularly interested in photography related to the arts and culture, and I believe my skills and experience would be a valuable asset to your company. I have enclosed my resume for your consideration.

I would be honored to have the opportunity to meet with you and discuss my qualifications further. Please let me know if there is any additional information you require.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Dear Madam:

I herewith enclose membership list of the Germanistic Society up to date.

Yours very truly,

Miss Inez Lapham,
Private Secretary to President,
Chicago, Illinois.
Dear [Recipient]:

I hereby nominate [candidate name] for the slate of the Chicago Architectural Society to the office of [position name].

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

[Position or Title]

[Institution Name]
MEMBERSHIP LIST
of the
GERMANISTIC SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

**********

Dr. L. H. Abele,
Henry Bartholomay,
Dr. Henry Banga,
August Blum,
LeGrand S. Burton,
Frederick Bode,
Rudolph Brand,
Horace L. Brand,
George C. Claussenius,
Mrs. R. T. Crane,
Prof. Starr W. Cutting,
Charles R. Crane,
W. J. Dummer,
F. J. Dewes,
Dr. Hugo Franz,
Fritz von Frantzius,
John B. Grommes,
Consul A. Geissler,
John J. Gleesner,
Charles Guenther,
William Gaertner,
Louis Guenzel,
Mrs. Louis Guenzel,
Hermann Hochmeister,
Charles L. Hutchinson,
Harry Pratt Judson,
Philip Henne,
Fritz Glogauer,

John J. Herrick,
Max Klee,
T. J. Lefens,
Harold F. McCormick,
LaVerne Noyes,
Adam Ortseifen,
Hermann Paepcke,
Mrs. Edward Peterson, resigned
Fridolin Pabst,
Harry Rubens,
Dr. Otto L. Schmidt,
Mrs. Otto L. Schmidt,
Mrs. Catherine Seipp,
Charles L. Strobel,
Frank H. Scott,
Ferdinand C. Schapper,
Dr. Ernst Saurenhaus,
Wm. C. Seipp, died
A. A. Sprague,
Harold F. Swift,
Joseph Theurer,
Michael Ullrich,
Edward G. Uhlein, resigned
E. W. Wagner,
Charles Wacker, resigned
Dr. Alexander C. Wiener,
William Wilms,
W. F. Zimmermann, resigned
Mr. William P. Sidley, 5 N. La Salle St.
Mr. Bernard A. Eckhart, 1300 Carroll Ave.
Mr. John C. Shedd, 219 W. Adams St.
Mr. W. W. Harris, 115 W. Monroe St.
Mr. W. J. Chalmers, 72 W. Adams St.
Mr. Byron L. Smith, 50 S. La Salle St.
Mr. James A. Patten, 1306 - 69 W. Washington St.
Mr. Spencer Otis, 704 - 80 E. Jackson Blvd.
Mr. Charles S. Holt, 1007 - 5 N. La Salle St.
Mr. Frederic A. Delano, 514 - 111 W. Jackson Blvd.
Mr. Edward E. Ayer, 80 E. Jackson Blvd.
Mr. George E. Adams, 108 S. La Salle St.
Mr. Frederic Ives Carpenter, 5533 Woodlawn Ave.

Addressed concerning membership in the
Germanistic Society in 1912.
Chicago, April 29, 1912

Mr. William P. Sidley,
5 N. La Salle St., Chicago.

Dear Mr. Sidley:

Herewith I am enclosing some material relating to the Germanistic Society of Chicago. This is an institution which for a number of years past in a quiet way has, in my opinion, done a very valuable work. The purpose is to disseminate in both countries ideas as to the best things in the other. Lectures are conducted at the Art Institute, partly in German and partly in English, covering a wide field of German literature, art, and institutions. From time to time an exchange professor is provided in Germany on behalf of the University of Chicago. Lectures have been given by them in Berlin, Göttingen, and other important educational and literary centers of the German Empire. If you can see your way clear to enrolling your name in the membership I shall be much gratified. The membership list is restricted to fifty of American birth and fifty of German ancestry.

Very truly yours,

W.P.J. = L.
Dear Mr. William E. biking

Mr. Ke Ette of Chicago

Dear Mr. Ettinger:

Herewith an accompanying manuscript entitled

"A New Method of Thermal Analysis" by Dr. John A. Brown, which I have presented to the Academy of Sciences of Chicago. The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate the feasibility of applying a new technique to the study of reactions and to complement the work of other researchers in the field of chemical and biological sciences.

I regret to inform you that I am unable to attend the conference at the University of Chicago due to other commitments. However, I would be honored to have this manuscript published in the proceedings of the conference.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

N.P.S. [Signature]
May 12th, 1912

Dear Mr. Judson:

With reference to your kind suggestion of the 29th April I regret to say that I do not at present feel in a position to accept membership in the Grammatical Society of Chicago. I should feel flattered to be associated with the gentlemen who are in it and backing the work, but just now I cannot undertake it.

I do not intend always to maintain a negative and non-receptive attitude towards the very flattering and friendly suggestions which you make to me.

Yours very truly,

F. I. Carpenter.
Harry Pratt Judson, President,
University of Chicago,
Chicago,

Dear Mr. Judson:

I am very glad to comply with your letter of the twenty-ninth ultimo, and enclose my check herein for two hundred and fifty dollars, which, as I understand it, makes me a life member of the Germanistic Society of Chicago.

Cordially,

[Signature]

May first, Nineteen twelve.
ENC
Mr. [Name]

University of California

March 15, 1942

Dear Mr. [Name]:

I am very pleased to inform you that I have been selected as the recipient of the [Award Name]. The selection committee found me to be most suitable for this honor. The award will be presented at the [Event Name] on [Date].

With this [Certificate Name] I am authorized to receive the [Award Name]. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]
Chicago, May 2, 1912

My dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you very much for your prompt compliance with my request as to the Germanistic Society. I am glad to have your membership, and still more gratified that it is a life membership.

Again thanking you for your courtesy and generosity, I am,

Very truly yours,

H. P. J. - L.

Mr. Byron L. Smith,
The Northern Trust Company, Chicago.
My dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you very much for your prompt cooperation
with my request to the Computation Society. I am very pleased to have your cooperation and assistance, and I will make every effort to fulfill the terms.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
My Dear Mr. President:

Your letters of May 2nd and 3rd containing check of Mr. Byron L. Smith and letter of Mr. James A. Patten have been delivered to me, and I beg to thank you heartily for your unceasing effort to increase the membership of our society.

Would it be convenient for you now, to set a date for the general meeting of the society, and could this meeting be held at the offices of the Chicago University?

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Recording Secretary.

President Harry Pratt Judson,
The University of Chicago,
58th & Ellis Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.
Mr. President:

I am writing to thank you for your letter of November 14th regarding the function of Mr. Johnson, who has been my assistant in the office. I wish to express my appreciation for your kind offer to send him to Chicago. I am sure he will be of great value to the organization.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Secretary.

President Henry Pratt Johnson
The University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
Dear Dr. J,  

My University of Chicago  

Dear President J—

Thanks for your favor of April 29th which is just received. I enclose herewith my check for $25 covering the fee of membership to the Germanic Society of Chicago. With best wishes for the success of the society and with realiment of high select, I remain

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

P.S. We have had a most enjoyable automobile tour in the Tyrol and are now taking in southern Germany.
Chicago, May 29, 1912

Dear Mr. Guenzel:-

Herewith I am enclosing correspondence with Mr. Spencer Otis. I assume his letter is in itself an application for membership, and I think it would be proper for you to write him to the effect that he has been duly elected. He will doubtless send his check to the Treasurer. I was very sorry not to be present at the meeting of the Board, but am sure you understand that the unexpected death of a friend was what prevented.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Louis Guenzel,
332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.
Dear Mr. Country:

I hereby request an interview with Mr. Spencer O'ceo. I have been advised to prepare an application for employment, and I think it would be proper for you to write a letter to Mr. Spencer O'ceo.

I am very sorry not to be able to present at the meeting of the board, but am sure you will understand that the circumstances are of a nature which make presentation impossible.

With best wishes, I am respectfully

Very truly yours,

H.P.T. L.

Mr. Country O'ceo.
222 E. Madison Ave.
Chicago.
Dear Mr. Guenzel:

Herewith I am enclosing check for $25 from Mr. N. W. Harris of Chicago, who applies for membership in the Germanistic Society. That with Mr. Patten will make I believe four members so far. I hope to have some others.

Very truly yours,

H. P. J. - L.

Mr. Louis Guenzel,
332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.
Chicago, June 3, 1928

Dear Mr. General:

Herewith I am enclosing check for $25 from "M. W. Hartin of Chicago" who applies for membership in the Germania Society. That with Mr. Patten's name I got into your membership or not, I hope to have some other...

Very truly yours,

H. P. T. J.

Mr. James General
335 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.
My Dear Mr. President:

Your letters of May the 29th and June the 3rd with contents have been received, and I beg to thank you again for your untiring effort to secure new members for our Society. I have notified Mr. Otis as requested and enclose his letter as well as the resignation of Mr. Glassner, hoping that you may be able to induce the latter to reconsider his decision.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

President Harry Pratt Judson,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.
My Dear Mr. President:

Your letter of May the 8th and June the 24th with your suggestions have been received, and I beg to thank you for your courtesy and the manner of your communication which you have written to me. I desire to add that the letter you may be able to receive the letter to recognize the President.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

President Harry P. Yagge
The University of Chicago
The Rocks,
Littleton,
New Hampshire.

June 25, 1912

My dear Agnes,

Your letter has been forwarded to me.

Of course if you wish it I will remain with the Germanic Society. My resignation was not intended to take effect yet another year, but you may consider it withdrawn.

Mrs. Gleason is much better I think. The bees are active but do not concern her much, since the fare the bees to Amherst High School

With kind regards to your husband

Yours very truly,

John J. Gleason
Chicago, July 3, 1912

My dear Mr. Glessner:

Thank you very much for your note with regard to the Germanistic Society. Just at present we are anxious not to have any resignations. I will try and not let it be a nuisance to you very long. My very best regards to Mrs. Glessner. I did not know that the bees had migrated, but am sure that they will perform admirably at the Agricultural College.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - Lc.

Mr. John J. Glessner,
The Rocks,
Littleton, New Hampshire.
My dear Mr. Emerson:

Thank you very much for your note with regard to the Germanic Society. I am very sorry not to be able to come, but will do my best to attend. I hope you will not take my absence to mean that I do not fully appreciate the importance of the Germanic Society and the work it is doing for the Germanic College.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

[Note: The handwriting is difficult to read, but it appears to be a formal letter.]
My Dear Mr. President:

Permit me to thank you for your successful effort in obtaining the withdrawal of Mr. Glessner's resignation.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

President Harry Pratt Judson,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.
THE

GERMANISTIC SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

begs to announce that the following lectures will be delivered
during the month of November, 1913, at

FULLERTON HALL
(Art Institute)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER FOURTH, 8:15 P. M.

"The Modern Spirit in the German Lied"
(Lecture-Recital in English)

By MR. KARLETON HACKETT

Assisted by

MR. HANS SCHROEDER, Baritone

MRS. HARRY L. SWARTZ, Accompanist

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER EIGHTEENTH, 8:15 P. M.

"Berlin und das deutsche Geistesleben"
(In German)

By DR. LUDWIG FULDA

of Berlin, Germany
The Germanic Society of Chicago

Tuesday, November Fourth, 8:15 p.m.

"The Modern Spirit in the German Language"

By Mr. Karlton Hackett

At the Chicago Historical Society, 525 South Dearborn Street.

Tuesday, November Eleventh, 8:15 p.m.

"Beath in the Germaic Countries"

(In German)

By Dr. Ludwig Hulda

At the German Club.
My dear Mr. President:

In reply to your letter of November 27th, I wish to express our regret that Professor Marcks can only deliver one lecture before the Germanistic Society.

If he is to speak on April 7th it will not be necessary that Professor Bezold deliver his lecture on the 14th; in fact, it would be more suitable for us if he would speak on the 21st, as originally planned.

Very truly yours,

Recording Secretary.

Mr. Harry Pratt Judson, Pres.,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.
In reply to your letter of November 14th, I wish to express our regret that Professor Warake can only deliver one feature lecture for the "Germanic Section".

To be able to provide a special event for the Germanic Section, it is necessary for it to be properly planned.

Very much yours,

[Signature]

Secretary
Chicago, December 12, 1912

Dear Mr. Guenzel:-

In answer to your note of the 4th inst. I beg to say that as I understand it Professor Marsh will speak on the 7th of April, and Professor Besold on the 21st.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Louis Guenzel,
332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.
Chicago, December 15, 1918

Dear Mr. General:

In answer to your note of the 4th
I feel I need to say that as I understand it Professor
Hart will speak on the 10th of April and Professor
Bosley on the 3rd.

Very truly yours,

H.P.L. L.

Mr. John General
333 E. Michigan Ave., Office.
Chicago, November 26, 1912

Dear Mr. President:

Professor Erich Marcks and his subject will be, according to a letter from him dated November 7, "Bismarck und Deutschlands Auswärtige Politik". I believe April 7, Monday evening at 8 P.M., was the time agreed upon; was it not? Drop me a note in case I am mistaken as I so wrote him a few days ago.

Tours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Handwritten note: T. W. Th 8 9 10]
Department of History

The University of Chicago

November 27, 1915

Dear Mr. President,

Professor J. E. Warner and Mr. Smith will be very grateful to have a letter from Mr. John Howard.

"Stirring up my conversation was an article in the Chicago Review April 7th which so excited me I felt the need of some sort of note to you. I wrote him a letter and he wrote me a letter so I sent the notes to you."

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]
Chicago, November 26, 1912

Dear Mr. Dodd:

Your note as to Professor Marcks is at hand. Mr. Robertson reported to me on the 13th of October that you had indicated two lectures before the Germanistic Society, April 7th and 14th. Is that correct?

Very truly yours,

H. P. J. - L.

Mr. W. E. Dodd,
The University of Chicago.
Dear Mr. Dogg—

Your recent letter to me on the 18th of October has just been delivered to me. I am to go to the University of Chicago at the beginning of the fall semester. In that event I shall be in Chicago for the next three years.

Very truly yours,

M. W. N. Dogg

The University of Chicago
Chicago, November 19, 1912

Dear Mr. Guenzel:

My understanding is that April 7th and 14th next will be taken by Professor Marck's, and I hope that you will hold April 21st for Professor Bezold.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Louis Guenzel,
332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.
Dear Mr. Governor:

I am writing to express my appreciation for your efforts to support the arts in our state. I have attended several of your events and I hope that you will find my efforts in this regard very fruitful.

Please accept my congratulations on your recent re-election.

Very truly yours,

H.B.T. - L.

M. Louis Gosnell
325 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago
Memorandum to the President.

Mr Dodd reports that the Marcks lectures as proposed by Professor Marcks will be as follows:

April 7, Germanistic Society
April 8, 9, 10, University of Chicago
April 14, Germanistic Society

Professor Marcks sails April 17th.

The University of Illinois would like to have him lecture in Champaign. Mr Dodd suggests that Mr Marcks might be able to visit Champaign on the 11th or 12th April.

[Signature]

DAR.C.
Chicago, September 19, 1912

Dear Mr. Dodd:

I have your note from Mr. Schmidt toward the Marcks lecture fund. This provides a contribution of $50 from Mrs. Seipp and $50 from Mr. Leafens. Do you understand that $50 more were pledged by somebody else?

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. W. E. Dodd,
The University of Chicago.
Cherished, September 10th, 1915

Dear Mr. Doig:

I have a note from Mr. Gordon, toward the Lancet:

I receive fine, the proceeds of $40 from Mr. Good and $80 from Mr. Leaton. Do you remember that $40 more were pledged by some other person.

Very truly yours,

H. L. T.

Mr. W. F. Doug
The University of Chicago