

The Pink Swastika

Homosexuality in the Nazi Party

By Scott Lively and Kevin Abrams

SPECIAL 5TH EDITION, A WORK IN PROGRESS, CHAPTER 1, VERSION 1.1

Author's Note:

In 1995 we published the 1st Edition of *The Pink Swastika* to counter historical revisionism by the homosexual political movement which had been attempting since the 1970s to fabricate a "Gay Holocaust" equivalent to that suffered by the Jews in Nazi Germany. We succeeded in stopping that campaign, indirectly forcing the "gays" to abandon the pink triangle as the primary symbol of their movement. (They switched to the rainbow.) Intense public interest in our work, however, prompted us to publish subsequent expanded editions.

Ten years has passed since we published the current 4th Edition but our research into this topic has never stopped. With our file drawers now bursting with additional material, we have decided it is time to prepare a new edition of our book.

This Special 5th Edition is designed to once-and-for-all silence the less-than-honest critics of our work by emphasizing the strength and trustworthiness of our documentation. Each chapter will also include a new section that highlights our sources.

We are publishing this edition chapter by chapter as a series of PDF documents with permission to distribute them freely. Each of these chapters will be issued as "beta" versions, subject to revision and re-issue until the end of our project when the final finished chapters will be published together as a single book.

We invite the readers, both friend and foe, to suggest changes, corrections and/or additional sources during this process.

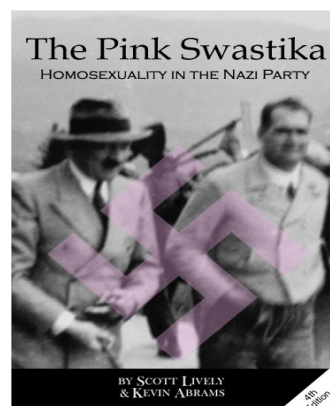
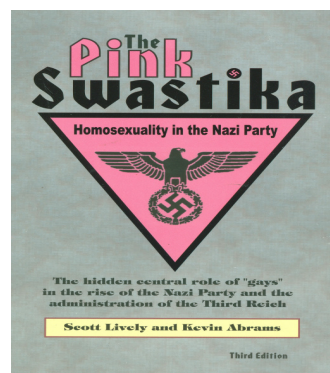
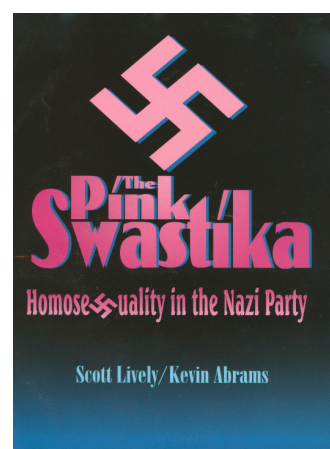
Happy Reading to All!

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Sidebar: Covers of Prior Editions

First Edition, 1995
Third Edition, 1997
Fourth Edition 2002
Fifth Edition in progress.
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The Pink Swastika

Lively/Abrams



THE HOMOSEXUAL ROOTS OF THE NAZI PARTY

It was a quiet night in Munich. The people moving along the streets in the heart of the city were grim. They walked heads down, hands deep in the pockets of their frayed coats. All around, the spirit of defeat hung like a pall in the evening air; it was etched on the faces of the out-of-work soldiers on every street corner and in every café. Germany had been defeated in the war, but it had been crushed by the terms of the Versailles Treaty. Everywhere the people were still mired in depression and despair, several years after the humiliating surrender of Kaiser Wilhelm.

In this atmosphere the purposeful stride of Captain Ernst Roehm seemed out of place. But Roehm was accustomed to being different. A homosexual with a taste for boys, Roehm was part of a growing subculture in Germany which fancied itself a superior form of German manhood. A large, heavy man, Roehm had been a professional soldier since 1906, and, after the war, had temporarily lent his talents to a socialist terror organization called the Iron Fist.

On this night Roehm was on his way to meet some associates who had formed a much more powerful socialist organization. At the door of the *Bratwurstgloeckl*, a tavern frequented by homosexual roughnecks and bully-boys, Roehm turned in and joined the handful of sexual deviants and occultists who were celebrating the success of a new campaign of terror. Their organization, once known as the German Worker's Party, was now called the *Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei*, The National Socialist German Worker's Party — the Nazis.

Yes, the Nazis met in a “gay” bar.¹

It was no coincidence that homosexuals were among those who founded the Nazi Party. In fact, the party grew out of a number of groups in Germany which were centers of homosexual activity and activism. Many of the characteristic rituals, symbols, activities and philosophies we associate with Nazism came from these organizations or from contemporary homosexuals. The extended-arm “*Sieg Heil*” salute, for example, was a ritual of the *Wandervoegel* (“Wandering Birds” or “Rovers”), a male youth society which became the German equivalent of the Boy Scouts.

The *Wandervoegel* was started in the late 1800s by a group of homosexual teenagers. Its first adult leader, Karl Fischer, called himself “*der Fuehrer*” (“the Leader”) (Koch:25f).² Hans Blueher, a homosexual Nazi philosopher and important early member of the *Wandervoegel*, incited a sensation in 1912 with publication of *The German Wandervoegel Movement as an Erotic Phenomenon*, which told how the movement had become one in which young boys could be introduced into the homosexual lifestyle (Rector:39f). The *Wandervoegel* and other youth organizations were later merged into the Hitler Youth (which itself became known among the populace as the “Homo Youth” because of rampant homosexuality. - Rector:52).³

Many of the Nazi emblems, such as the swastika, the double lightning bolt “SS” symbol, and even the inverted triangle symbol used to identify classes of prisoners in the concentration

camps, originated among homosexual occultists in Germany (some, such as the swastika, are actually quite ancient symbols which were merely adopted by these homosexual groups).

In 1907, Jorg Lanz Von Liebenfels, a former Cistercian monk whom the church excommunicated because of his homosexual activities (Sklar:19), flew the swastika flag above his castle in Austria (Goodrick-Clarke:109).⁴

After his expulsion from the church Lanz founded the *Ordo Novi Templi* ("Order of the New Temple") which merged occultism with violent anti-Semitism. A 1958 study of Lanz, *Der Mann der Hitler die Ideen gab* ("The Man Who Gave Hitler His Ideas"), by Austrian psychologist Wilhelm Daim, called Lanz the true "father" of National Socialism.

List, a close associate of Lanz, formed the Guido von List Society in Vienna in 1904. The Guido von List Society was accused of practicing a form of Hindu Tantrism which featured sexual perversion in its rituals. This form of sexual perversion was popularized in occult circles by a man named Aleister Crowley who, according to Hitler biographer J. Sydney Jones, enjoyed "playing with black magic and little boys" (J. S. Jones:123).⁵ List was "accused of being the Aleister Crowley of Vienna" (ibid.:123). Like Lanz, List was an occultist; he wrote several books on the magic principles of rune letters (from which he chose the "SS" symbol). In 1908, List "was unmasked as the leader of a blood brotherhood which went in for sexual perversion and substituted the swastika for the cross" (Sklar:23).⁶ The Nazis borrowed heavily from List's occult theories and research.

List also formed an elitist occult priesthood called the Armanen Order, to which Hitler himself may have belonged (Waite, 1977:91).⁷



Cover of Guido von List's book, *The Secret of the Runes*, 1908. The Nazis adopted many of these symbols



Ernst Roehm,
Supreme Commander of the
dreaded SA Brownshirts.

The Nazi dream of an Aryan super-race was adopted from an occult group called the Thule Society, founded in 1917 by followers of Lanz and List. The occult doctrine of the Thule Society held that the survivors of an ancient and highly developed lost civilization could endow Thule initiates with esoteric powers and wisdom. The initiates would use these powers to create a new race of Aryan supermen who would eliminate all "inferior" races. Hitler dedicated his book, *Mein Kampf*, to Dietrich Eckart, one of the Thule Society inner circle and a former leading figure in the German Worker's Party. (Schwarzwallner:67).⁸ The various occult groups mentioned above were outgrowths of the Theosophical Society, whose founder, Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, is thought by some to have been a lesbian (Webb:94),⁹ and whose "bishop" was a notorious pederast named Charles Leadbeater.

The SA Brownshirts or *Stuermabteilung* ("Storm Troopers") were largely the creation of another

homosexual, Gerhard Rossbach (Waite, 1969:209). Rossbach formed the *Rossbachbund* (“Rossbach Brotherhood”), a homosexual unit of the *Freikorps* (“Free Corps”). The *Freikorps* were independent inactive military reserve units which became home to the hundreds of thousands of unemployed World War I veterans in Germany. Rossbach also formed a youth organization under the *Rossbachbund*, calling it the *Schilljugend* (“Schill Youth”) (ibid.:210). Rossbach’s staff assistant, Lieutenant Edmund Heines, a pederast and murderer, was put in charge of the *Schilljugend*. The *Rossbachbund* later changed its name to Storm Troopers (in honor of Wotan, the ancient German god of storms. - Graber:33).¹⁰ Rossbach seduced Hitler’s mentor, Ernst Roehm, into homosexuality. It was under Roehm’s leadership that the Brownshirts became notorious for brutality.

Famous events in Nazi history are also linked to homosexuality; events such as the burning of the German Reichstag in 1932, the 1938 *pogrom* called *Kristallnacht*, and the 1944 attempt on Hitler’s life. Even the enduring image of Nazi book-burning, familiar to us from newsreels of the 1930s, was directly related to the homosexuality of Nazi leaders. The first such incident occurred four days after Hitler’s Brownshirts broke into Magnus Hirschfeld’s Institute for Sexual Research in Berlin on May 6, 1933.

On May 10 the Nazis burned thousands of books and files taken in that raid. The Institute had extensive records on the sexual perversions of numerous Nazi leaders, many of whom had been under treatment there prior to the beginning of the Nazi regime. Treatment at the Sex Research Institute was required by the German courts for persons convicted of sex crimes. Ludwig L. Lenz, who worked at the Institute at the time of the raid but managed to escape with his life, later wrote of the incident:

Why was it then, since we were completely non-party, that our purely scientific Institute was the first victim which fell to the new regime? The answer to this is simple...We knew too much. It would be against medical principles to provide a list of the Nazi leaders and their perversions [but]...not ten percent of the men who, in 1933, took the fate of Germany into their hands, were sexually normal... Our knowledge of such intimate secrets regarding members of the Nazi Party and other documentary material — we possessed about forty thousand confessions and biographical letters—was the cause of the complete and utter destruction of the Institute of Sexology. (Haberle:369).¹¹



Nazi youth protesting in front of the Sex Research Institute in Berlin May 6, 1933. Later that same day Storm Troopers looted the facility and captured its files and records

The attack on the Sex Research Institute is often cited as an example of Nazi oppression of homosexuals. This is partly true, but as we shall see, the “oppression” fits into a larger context



May 10, 1933 the incriminating records of the Sex Research Institute are burned in a public ceremony along with books and other literature deemed subversive to German society.

of internecine rivalry between two major homosexual groups. Magnus Hirschfeld, who headed the Institute, was a prominent Jewish homosexual. Hirschfeld also headed a “gay rights” organization called the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee (SHC), formed in 1897 to work for the repeal of Paragraph 175 of the German legal code, which criminalized homosexuality (Kennedy, 1988: 230).¹² The organization was also opposed to sadomasochism and pederasty, two of the favorite practices of the militaristic, Roehm-style homosexuals who figured so prominently in the early Nazi Party. Among the burning literary works deemed unacceptable by the Nazis were hidden thousands of files documenting the perversions of Nazi leaders.

Hirschfeld had formed the SHC to carry on the work of the pioneer “gay rights” activist, Karl Heinrich Ulrichs (1825-1895). Ulrichs had written against the concept of “Greek love” (pederasty) advocated by a number of other homosexuals in Germany.

One such advocate was Adolf Brand, who formed the *Gemeinschaft der Eigenen* (“Community of the Elite”) in 1902. The *Gemeinschaft der Eigenen* inspired the formation in 1920 of the German Friendship League, which changed its name in 1923 to the Society for Human Rights. The leaders of this group were instrumental in the formation and the rise of the Nazi Party. Adolf Brand published the world’s first homosexual periodical, *Der Eigene* (“The Elite” - Oosterhuis and Kennedy: cover).¹³ Brand was a pederast, child pornographer and anti-Semite, and, along with many homosexuals who shared his philosophies, developed a burning hatred of Magnus Hirschfeld and the SHC. When Hirschfeld’s Sex Research Institute was destroyed, the SA troops were under the general command of Ernst Roehm, a member of Brand’s spin-off group, the Society for Human Rights.

The Divided Movement

This was not the last time homosexual leadership of the Nazis would attack other ideologically dissimilar homosexuals. Later in this discussion we will examine the so-called “pink triangle” homosexuals who were interned in concentration camps. The pink triangle, part of a scheme of variously-colored triangles used by the Nazis to identify specific classes of prisoners, was applied to those convicted under Paragraph 175 of the German Penal Code. Homosexuals were one of these classes, but according to Johansson,

[M]any of those convicted under Paragraph 175 were not homosexual: some were opponents of the regime such as Catholic priests or leaders of youth groups who were prosecuted on the basis of perjured testimony, while others were street hustlers from Berlin or Hamburg who had been caught up in a police dragnet (Johansson in Dynes:997).¹⁴

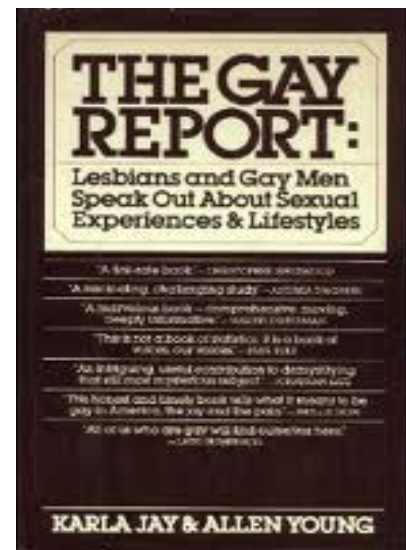
As many as 6,000 of the approximately 10,000 “pink triangles” died in the work camps, but few, if any, were gassed in the death camps (unless they happened to be Jewish). Some of those who died met their deaths at the hands of homosexual *Kapos* (“trustees”) and guards of the SS. At first glance it is difficult to understand why the homosexual leaders of the Nazis would persecute other homosexuals on the basis of their sexual behavior. We alluded, in the matter of the Sex Research Institute, to the fact that the homosexual movement in Germany was divided into two diametrically opposed camps which some have called the “Fems” and the “Butches.” These terms are common among homosexuals today, as is the disdain “Butches” feel for “Fems.”

A researcher of the homosexual movement Gordon Westwood writes that masculine homosexuals “deplore [effeminate] behavior,” many considering effeminate homosexual “repulsive” (Westwood:87).¹⁵ Another researcher, H. Kimball Jones, reports that reaction to “Fems” is often violent in the general homosexual community. “[They label them] ‘flaming faggot’ or ‘degenerate fag,’” with one homosexual exclaiming, “You know, I loathe these screaming fairies” (H.K.Jones:29).¹⁶

Jay and Young’s 1979 examination of the American homosexual movement, *The Gay Report*, contains numerous personal statements by masculine homosexuals critical of effeminacy. “Fem behavior can be vicious and destructive, demeaning to women and gay men,” says one. Another asserts, “To me someone who is ‘femme’ is a self-indulgent...petty, scheming, gossipy gay being whose self-image has been warped and shaped by unfortunate family situations” (Jay:294ff).¹⁷

The most hostile to “Femmes” are precisely those homosexuals who deem themselves the most “masculine.” In *The Homosexual Matrix*, C.A. Tripp writes that

“[f]ar to the other extreme, there are a number of utterly masculine, sometimes super-masculine homosexuals.... They are obsessed with everything male and eschew anything weak or effeminate.... Unquestionably they





Adolf Brand mocks the effeminacy of Magnus Hirschfeld and the "Fems" of the Scientific Humanitarian Committee in this issue of *Der Eigene* titled "The Auntie."

represent the epitome of what can happen when an eroticized maleness gains the full backing of a value system that supports it" (Tripp:92).¹⁸

Cory and LeRoy, in their detailed discussion of homosexual culture, describe the scene in a typical American "leather bar":

Here, sturdy swaggering males dressed in tight dungarees, leather jackets or heavy shoes, dark hued woolen shirts, and sometimes motorcycle helmets, aspire toward a super-masculine ideal...Behind the facade of robust exploits, the uniform of pretentious male prowess, the mask of toughness, there sometimes lies a dangerous personality that can express itself physically by substituting violence for erotic pleasure; capable of receiving sexual pleasure only by inflicting pain (or receiving it). The general atmosphere in such places is restless and brooding, and one can never be sure when the dynamite of violence will erupt (Cory and LeRoy:109).¹⁹

Reading this description, one can imagine oneself looking into Munich's *Bratwurstgloeckl* tavern, where the Brownshirts congregated, and finding the same cast of

characters -- only wearing different costumes.

This contrast of homosexual types is not simply a phenomenon of modern society. Greenberg writes about homosexuality among the Germans of the first centuries A.D.:

As war became more important to the Germans, the male warriors and their culture became dominant, and the status of women declined. Effeminacy and receptive homosexuality were increasingly scorned and repressed.... The effeminate homosexual...was depicted as a foul monster.... this stigmatization did not extend to active male homosexuality. [Later, acceptability of masculine oriented homosexuality declined under Christianity, which] was officially opposed to all forms of homosexuality (Greenberg:249f).²⁰

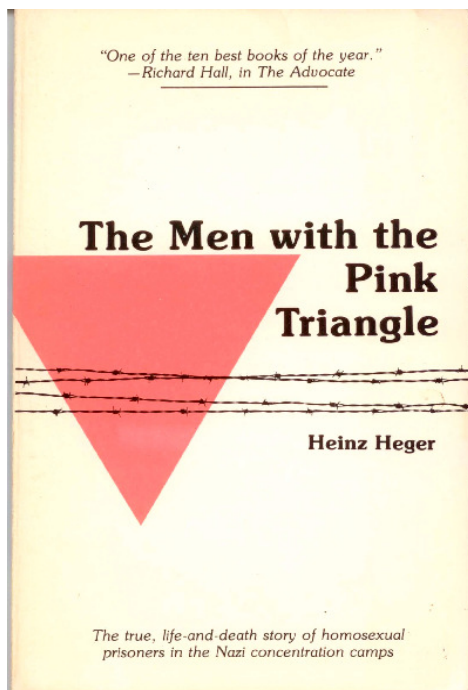
The authors do not wish to imply that all homosexuals fall into one or the other of these two simplistic stereotypes. The terms "Butch" and "Fem" in this study are used loosely to differentiate between two ideological extremes relating to the nature of homosexual identity. Generally in this work the German "Fems" are defined as homosexual men who acted like women. They were pacifists and accommodationists. Their goals were equality with heterosexuals and the "right to privacy," and generally they opposed sex with young children. Their leaders were Karl Heinrich Ulrichs and Magnus Hirschfeld.

The “Butches,” on the other hand, were masculine homosexuals. They were militarists and chauvinists in the Hellenic mold. Their goal was to revive the pederastic military cults of pre-Christian pagan cultures, specifically the Greek warrior cult. They were often vicious misogynists and sadists. Their leaders included Adolf Brand and Ernst Roehm. The “Butches” reviled all things feminine. Their ideal society was the *Maennerbund*, an all-male “comradeship-in-arms” comprised of rugged men and boys (Oosterhuis and Kennedy:255). In their view, heterosexuals might be tolerated for the purpose of continuing the species, but effeminate homosexuals were considered to be subhuman, and thus intolerable.

Most of the estimated 1.2 to 2 million homosexuals in Germany at the time of the Third Reich undoubtedly fit somewhere between the two extremes of the movement. This may explain the fact that less than 2% of this population were prosecuted under anti-sodomy laws by the Nazis (Cory and LeRoy estimate that “Fems” make up 5-15% of male homosexuals. Cory and LeRoy:73). Most of those who were prosecuted can be shown to fit the profile of the “Fems.” Kurt Hiller, a ranking member of the SHC who later succeeded Hirschfeld, “estimated that 75 percent of the male homosexuals sympathized with the parties of the Right” (Johansson in Friedlander:233).

In his introduction to *The Men with the Pink Triangle*, the supposed testimony of a former pink triangle prisoner at the Flossenburg concentration camp, translator David Fernbach confirms that the “Butch/Fem” conflict was at the heart of the Nazi hatred of the “pink triangles.” He writes,

Naturally, in the paramilitary organization of the SA, Hitler Youth, etc., even the elite SS, the forms of homosexuality that are characteristic of such all-male bodies



were as common as they always are...it was quite fundamental to Nazi ideology that men were to be properly “masculine”... when male homosexuality disguises itself as a cult of “manliness” and virility, it is less obnoxious from the fascist standpoint than is the softening of the gender division that homosexuality invariably involves when it is allowed to express itself freely (Heger: 10f).²¹

This, then, is the explanation for the paradox of the Nazi persecution of homosexuals. It is found in the history of two irreconcilable philosophies linked by a common sexual dysfunction. The roots of this conflict extend back into the eighteenth century and span a 70-year period which saw the rise of homosexual militancy in the movement that gave Nazism to the world.

One final item before we move to the next section. It should by this time be apparent to the reader that lesbians did not have a major part to play in Nazism, but they were not completely absent from the Party. Herzer writes that “Claudia Schoppmann has recently shown that prior to 1933, there were Nazi adherents among the leading lesbians in the homosexual emancipation movement. As an example she names the case of Elsbeth Killmer, a leading editor of the most important lesbian

periodical of that time, *Die Freundin*, who was active in the Nazi organization *NS-Frauenschaft* early on” (Herzer:221f).²²

Karl Heinrich Ulrichs

The “grandfather” of the world “gay rights” movement was a homosexual German lawyer named Karl Heinrich Ulrichs (1825-1895). At the age of 14, Ulrichs was seduced by his riding instructor, a homosexual man about 30 years old (Kennedy in Pascal:15).²³ Observers familiar with the apparently high correlation between childhood sexual molestation and adult homosexuality might conclude that this youthful experience caused Ulrichs to become a homosexual. Ulrichs himself, however, arrived at a hereditary rather than an environmental explanation for his condition.

In the 1860s Ulrichs began advancing a theory that defined homosexuals as a third sex. He proposed that male homosexuality could be attributed to a psycho-spiritual mix-up in which a man’s body came to be inhabited by a woman’s soul (and vice-versa for females). He called members of this third sex “*Urnings*” (male) and “*Dailings*” (female). Since homosexuality was an inborn condition, he reasoned, it should not be criminalized.

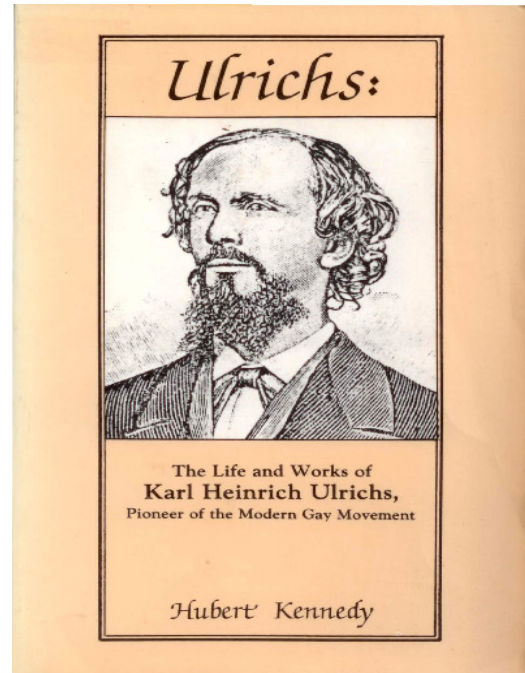
Although Ulrichs was to be unsuccessful in changing the laws against homosexuality, his efforts did encourage widespread political activism. One early follower, a German-Hungarian writer named Benkert (under the pseudonym, Karoly Maria Kertbeny), coined the term “homosexual” in an anonymous open letter to the Prussian Minister of Justice in 1869 (Lauritsen and Thorstad:6).²⁴ Steakley writes that prior to this, homosexuals were known as sodomites, pederasts, or “‘Knabenschaender’ (literally, ‘boy-ravishers’)” (Steakley:13).²⁵

The first psychiatric study of homosexuality in Germany was published in 1869 as the result of Ulrichs’ efforts. It advocated the decriminalization of homosexuality in favor of medical treatment (Oosterhuis and Kennedy:13).

Ulrichs’ greatest intellectual impact on his own generation came from his invention of the term “Uranians,” which he introduced in 1862 as a new designation for homosexuals (both *Urnings* and *Dailings*). He took the term from Plato’s Symposium, in which homosexual activity was said to fall under the protection of the ninth muse, Urania. In the late 1800s German homosexuals frequently called themselves Uranians, and a militant homosexual slogan, “Uranians of the world, unite!” became popular internationally (Rutledge:41).²⁶

In the following quote Ulrichs uses the term in his explanation of the “third sex” theory, and graphically illustrates the mentality of the “Fems”:

Apart from the womanly direction of our sexual desire, we Uranians bear another womanly element within us which, it appears to me, offers proof positive that



nature developed the male germ within us physically but the female spiritually. We bear this other womanly element from our earliest childhood on. Our character, the way we feel, our entire temperament is not manly, it is decidedly womanly. This inner womanly element is outwardly recognizable by our outwardly apparent womanly nature (Fee:37).²⁷

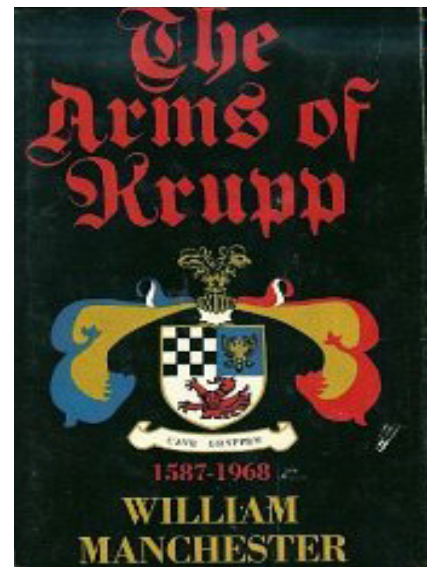
Ulrichs was publicly opposed to sadomasochism and pedophilia (perhaps because of his own molestation as an adolescent). He wrote against the concept of “Greek love” and considered “sexual attraction to the prepubertal to be a sickness.” In his attempts to repeal Paragraph 175 of the German Penal Code, Ulrichs advocated more stringent laws against pedophilia. Ulrichs’ condemnation of man/boy sex, however, extended only to prepubescent boys. As the following quote from his publication *Forschungen Ueber das Raetsel der mannmannlichen Liebe* (“Investigation of the Enigma of Homosexual Love”) reveals, Ulrichs was not opposed to sex between men and boys who were “sexually mature.”

The Urning is not by a hair’s breadth any more dangerous to immature boys than the genuine man is to immature girls. For the rest, I gladly leave the child molester to his deserved punishment by the law. Let the integrity of a will-less minor be sacred to every Urning. I have no defense for whoever touches it. Therefore, let the seduction of immature boys, I grant it completely, be a punishable indecent act (Ulrichs:16).²⁸

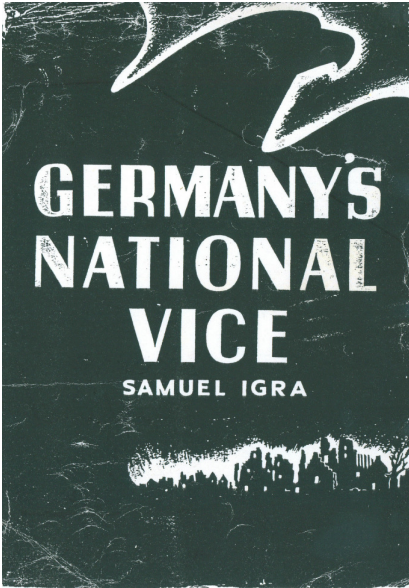
This distinction between mature and immature boys was lost on many who followed the rise of the homosexual movement in Germany. For example, Friedrich Engels, in a letter to Karl Marx about a book Ulrichs had written, said, “The pederasts start counting their numbers and discover they are a powerful group in our state. The only thing missing is an organization, but it seems to exist already, though it is hidden” (Plant:38).²⁹ Engels considers Ulrichs a pederast despite his arbitrary age restriction for sex with boys.

Ulrichs’ political activities paved the way for a large and powerful homosexual movement which grew both in numbers and in political and social influence in pre-Nazi Germany. Barely a quarter of a century after his death in 1895, homosexuality would become openly widespread in the Germany of the Weimar Republic era. Cities such as Munich and Berlin would become international Meccas for the practitioners of all forms of sexual perversion. As William Manchester observed in *The Arms of Krupp* “Wilhelmine Kulture’s emphasis on masculinity had produced a generation of perverts. Abroad, sodomy was delicately known as ‘the German vice’” (Manchester,1968:232).³⁰

Samuel Igra, a German Jew who published *Germany’s National Vice* in 1945 (a study of homosexual influences in Germany), commented on the rise of homosexuality after the turn of the century:



“Abroad, sodomy was delicately known as ‘the German vice’”



In Germany these unnatural vices became a veritable cult among the ruling classes. In 1891 the well-known German psychiatrist, Krafft-Ebbing, one of the great pioneers in that branch of psycho-pathology, published a book entitled *Psychologia Sexualis* in which he declared that sex perversion in Germany was alarmingly on the increase. Commissioner Hans von Tresckow, who was head of a special branch of the Criminal Police Department in Berlin from 1905 to 1919, has published the following in his memoirs:

"I can confirm the statement (made by Krafft-Ebbing) that homosexualist groups have been steadily on the increase in recent decades, especially in the big cities. At the present time in Berlin there are for certain more than one hundred thousand persons who

are addicts of this practice. They are closely banded together and even have their own paper, *Die Freundschaft*, which appears regularly and defends their interests" (*Von Fuersten and Anderen Sterblichen*, by Hans von Tresckow, p. 110. F. Fontane & Co. Berlin. 1922) [Igra:27f].³¹

Magnus Hirschfeld and the SHC

Ulrichs' successor Magnus Hirschfeld was a prominent Jewish physician and homosexual. Dr. Hirschfeld, along with two other homosexuals, Max Spohr and Erich Oberg, joined together to form the *Wissenschaftlich-Humanitaeres Komitee* ("Scientific-Humanitarian Committee"). As we have noted, the SHC was dedicated to two goals: 1) to carry on Ulrichs' philosophy and works and 2) to work for the legitimization of homosexuality by the German public via the repeal of Paragraph 175, the German law which criminalized homosexual conduct (Steakley:23f). Homosexualist historian Richard Plant writes,

It would be hard to overestimate Hirschfeld's importance...He became the leader of several psychological and medical organizations, the founder of a unique institute for sexual research...He also founded the 'Yearbook for Intersexual Variants,' which he edited until 1923 (Plant:28-29).

Hirschfeld was originally committed to the metaphysical aspect of Ulrichs' theory but he later abandoned this idea. Still, Hirschfeld remained true to many of the rest of Ulrichs' theories, building upon them through the work of the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, whose efforts he directed toward the political goal of decriminalizing homosexuality. Hirschfeld coined the term "transvestite," which has become the accepted label for both men and women who compulsively costume themselves as members of the opposite sex (J. Katz:210).³²



Magnus Hirschfeld

The SHC circulated petitions among German intellectuals and politicians calling for the abolition of Paragraph 175. Due to Hirschfeld's groundwork in creating a positive public image, these petitioning efforts met with increasing success. But for all the appearance of dignity and scientific impartiality which it displayed to German society, the SHC offered a far different perspective to those who saw it from within. Hans Blueher, whose contribution to the German homosexual movement is chronicled later in this study, once visited Hirschfeld at the SHC. The meeting was precipitated by Hirschfeld's offer to write the foreword to Blueher's book describing homosexuality in the *Wandervoegel*. Blueher writes,

I was led into the study of the "Wise Man of Berlin" (as he was called)...Sitting on a silk-covered fauteuil, legs under him like a Turk, was an individual with bloated lips and cunning, dimly coveting eyes who offered me a fleshy hand and introduced himself as Dr. Hirschfeld...[Later in a meeting of the SHC] the first to greet me was a corporal with a deep bass voice; he was, however, wearing women's clothes... "A so-called transvestite!" commented Dr. Hirschfeld, whose nickname was "Aunt Magnesia," and introduced us...Then a most beautiful youth appeared..."A hermaphrodite!" said Hirschfeld. "Why don't you come to me during my office hours tomorrow, you can see him naked then"...An older gentleman in his sixties...recited a poem...to a sixteen year old youth, full of yearning...I turned to Laurent, who was the only kindred spirit in this pack of lemurs, "Tell me, haven't you noticed that we're in a downright brothel here?" (Blueher in Mills:160f).³³

Blueher's disgust with Hirschfeld and the SHC was representative of the attitude of the masculine homosexual camp. But at this stage of the conflict, the "Fems" were fully in control and enjoyed what support there was in German society for the homosexual political cause. The SHC's "scientific" focus lent an air of legitimacy to its political goals that the masculine group could not achieve. Yet it was a strategy that would ultimately backfire on the "Fems." Sociologist David Greenberg writes that Ulrichs' third-sex theory "was a controversial strategy among German homosexual activists; those in the anti-feminist wing of the movement viewed male homosexuality as an expression of male superiority and considered the Ulrichs-Hirschfeld position insulting" (Greenberg: 410).

Hoping to use the argument that homosexuality is congenital to justify its decriminalization, Hirschfeld tried desperately to legitimize his own version of the "third-sex" theory and homosexuality generally (ibid.:410). He formed the Sex Research Institute of Berlin, which opened its doors on July 1, 1919. Its purpose was in part to provide legal services for men arrested for violating Paragraph 175 but also to legitimize the view of homosexuality as a medical condition (Bianco:64).³⁴ In that same year, Hirschfeld produced the first pro-homosexual film "*Anders als die Andern*" (Different from the Others) in which he appeared briefly (ibid.).

The Sex Research Institute, housed in a Berlin mansion purchased by Hirschfeld, assimilated the SHC's massive collection of books, photographs and medical documents and began a campaign to make itself "respectable" in German society. According to Plant, "attending physicians offered various kinds of sexual counseling...treated people for venereal diseases...[and gave] advice on abortion procedures."

The fact that many Nazi leaders were treated at the Sex Research Institute led the

Institute's Assistant Director, Ludwig L. Lenz, to conclude that its destruction by the Nazis in 1933 was for the purpose of destroying evidence of Nazi perversions (see above). For many years the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee was the largest and most influential homosexual organization in the German "gay rights" movement. In 1914, it had one thousand members (Steakley:60). But homosexuality in Germany was much more prevalent than the size of the membership of the SHC would suggest. Not surprisingly, one of the early goals of the SHC was to find out how many homosexuals there were in the German population.

In what may have been the world's first survey of its kind, the SHC distributed 6611 questionnaires to Berlin students and factory workers in 1903. The results were published the following year in the *Jahrbuch* ("Yearbook") and showed that 2.2% of the German male population admitted to being homosexual (ibid.:33).³⁵

The New Hellenes

At the same time that Ulrichs and Hirschfeld were promulgating their theories of male homosexuality as an expression of femininity, a rival group of homosexuals was reaching into antiquity for its own "masculine" philosophy. As homosexual scholar Hubert Kennedy writes in *Man/Boy Love in the Writings of Karl Heinrich Ulrichs*:

Happily, some boy-lovers were already speaking out in opposition to Hirschfeld in Berlin at the beginning of this century...[Der Gemeinschaft] Der Eigene, mostly bisexual and/or boy-lovers, opposed the "third sex" view of homosexuality. Seeing the "love of friends" as a masculine virtue, they urged a rebirth of the Greek ideal (Kennedy:17f).

This "Greek ideal" was a culture of pederastic male supremacy. Male homosexuality, especially between men and boys, was considered a virtue in Hellenic (Greek) society. In several of his Dialogues, Plato gave voice to the advocates for pederasty, who considered man/boy sex to be superior to heterosexual relations.

As author Eva Cantarella notes in *Bisexuality in the Ancient World*, "Plato makes clear in the Symposium that it was perfectly acceptable to court a lad, and admirable to win him...Pederasty did not lurk in the shadows of Greek life, it was out in the open" (Greenberg:148,151). Cantarella reviews the literature of the period, including Plato's writings. She writes that Plato developed a theory "of the existence of two different types of love: the love inspired by the heavenly Aphrodite, and the love inspired by the common Aphrodite." Only "pederastic courtship," notes Cantarella, reflected the



Cover of *Der Eigene* magazine.

“heavenly” form of love (Cantarella:59).³⁶

In his Symposium, Plato expounds this theory:

[Homosexual] boys and lads are the best of their generation, because they are the most manly. Some people say they are shameless, but they are wrong. It is not shamelessness which inspires their behavior, but high spirit and manliness and virility, which leads them to welcome the society of their own kind. A striking proof of this is that such boys alone, when they reach maturity engage in public life. When they grow to be men, they become lovers of boys, and it requires the compulsion of convention to overcome their natural disinclination to marriage and procreation; they are quite content to live with one another unwed (ibid.:60).

Cantarella writes that “[t]he gender which attracted and tempted Socrates was the male sex” as well. She cites another of Plato’s dialogues in which Socrates falls in love with Cydias, a schoolboy, proclaiming “[I] caught fire, and could possess myself no longer” (ibid.:56ff).

Voltaire may have had both of these men in mind when he once remarked of the propensity of classical philosophers, “Once, a philosopher, twice, a sodomite!” (Grant and Homme, 1993:28).³⁷

To be fair, however, the characterizations of Plato and Socrates as pederasts is hotly contested by many historians. In the defense of the philosophers it must be noted that Plato, whose writings provide our only evidence for speculating on the life of either man, wrote mostly in dialogue. It is thus difficult to know to what extent he agreed with the ideas expressed by his characters. It should also be noted here that in his last work, the *Laws*, Plato asserted the value of the family and the moral wrongness of homosexuality (*Laws*: 841A-841D). Still, based on the fact that homosexual pederasty was widely practiced and accepted in Greece and that Plato based *The Republic* (his vision of “utopian” society -- addressed later in this book) upon the Spartan homosexual military cult, the authors believe that in his earlier life Plato was at least an apologist for pederasty and may indeed have practiced this perversion himself.

What remains most relevant to this study (and is confirmed by Plato) is that the Greek military establishment enthusiastically embraced homosexuality. Here we find the model for the new Hellenes -- an ultra-masculine, male supremacist, homoerotic warrior cult. The armies of Thebes, Sparta and Crete were each examples of this phenomenon (as are the modern Islamist terror groups). Cantarella notes that the ancient historian, Plutarch of Chaeronea (50-120 A.D.) wrote of “the sacred battalion” of Thebans made up of 150 male homosexual pairs (Cantarella:72), and of the legendary Spartan army, which inducted all twelve-year-old boys into military service where they were “entrusted to lovers chosen among the best men of adult age.” Plutarch also reports of a Cretan military induction ritual in which boys were abducted and sexually enslaved for a period of two months by adult pederasts before receiving their “military kit” (ibid.:7).

This last perversion undoubtedly inspired or was inspired by the Greek myth of Ganymede. Author Jason Berry sheds some light on this apparent derivation:

Certain gods practiced man-boy love as did the bi-sexual male aristocracy; the armies of Thebes and Sparta were charged with homosexuality as a fire of the male power drive. Pagans in the late [Roman] Empire adulated gods like Zeus,



Rembrandt's *Rape of Ganymede* depicts the pederasty of Zeus (in the form of an eagle).

who abducted and raped Ganymede — a living myth that one philosopher denounced for influencing those men who ran “marketplaces of immorality and...infamous resorts for the young for every kind of corrupt pleasure” (Berry:200f).³⁸

It is possible that the term “gay” is derived from this mythical Greek figure, Ganymede, cup-bearer of the gods, who exemplified the concept of man/boy sex to the masculine homosexuals. The British term “catamite,” meaning the submissive partner in a male homosexual relationship, is derived from the Roman version of Ganymede, *Catamitus*. The terms “gay” and “lesbian” (the latter derived from the name of the Isle of Lesbos in Greece) eventually replaced the terms *Urning* and *Dailing* as the names of choice for homosexuals.

In ancient Greece, as in the masculine homosexual faction in Germany, only the masculine form of homosexuality was esteemed and all things feminine were despised. The form of homosexuality which dominated Greek culture was ultramasculine and militaristic. It can be assumed that women, as well as men who identified with womanly traits and thinking, were considered naturally inferior to the elite pederasts. Cantarella writes that Plato, in *Timaeus*, went so far as to theorize that women were the reincarnations of men who had “lived badly” in a previous life (Cantarella:58).

As we will see, the revival of Hellenic paganism became a fundamental aspect of the Nazi identity. In *Nationalism and Sexuality*, historian George L. Mosse notes its significance:

“The Greek youth, an important national symbol in the past, reigned supreme during the Third Reich. Hitler’s own taste was influenced by the neo-classical revival...[which often included] pictures of nude youth...not unlike those of boys bathing” (Mosse:172).³⁹

But the Nazis adopted more than just symbolism from the “boy-lovers” who reasserted the Greek ideal; their ideas and philosophies are indelibly stamped on the Nazi regime.

The influence of the Greek homosexuals on Nazi culture is perhaps explained best by contemporary German psychoanalyst, Wilhelm Reich in his 1933 classic, *The Mass Psychology of Fascism*:

Among the ancient Greeks, whose written history does not begin until patriarchy has reached a state of full development, we find the following sexual organization: male supremacy... and along with this the wives leading an enslaved and wretched existence and figuring solely as birth machines. The male supremacy of the Platonic era is entirely homosexual... The same principle governs the fascist ideology of the male strata of Nazi leaders (Blüher, Roehm, etc.). For the fascists, therefore, the return of natural sexuality is viewed as a sign of decadence, lasciviousness, lechery, and sexual filth...the fascists ...affirm the

most severe form of patriarchy and actually reactivate the sexual life of the Platonic era in their familial form of living...Rosenberg and Bluher [the leading Nazi ideologists] recognize the state solely as a male state organized on a homosexual basis (Reich:91ff).⁴⁰

The Clash of Cultures

A key to understanding the cause of the German social collapse, which culminated in the atrocities of the Third Reich, is found in the conflict of Hellenic and Hebrew (Judeo-Christian) value systems. This war of philosophies, as old as Western civilization itself, pits the homoeroticism of the Greeks against the marriage-and-family-centered heterosexuality of the Jews. Johansson and Percy write of this conflict from the homosexualist perspective:

While the Greeks cultivated *paiderasteia* as a fundamental institution of male society and attribute of gods and heroes, in two centuries, under Persian rule (538-332 B.C.), Biblical Judaism came to reject and penalize male homosexuality in all forms. Jewish religious consciousness deeply internalized this taboo, which became a distinctive feature of Judaic sexual morality, setting the worshippers of the god of Israel apart from the gentiles whose idols they despised. This divergence set the stage for the confrontation between Judaism and Hellenism (Johansson and Percy:34).⁴¹

In asserting that the rejection of homosexuality by the Jews *began* in this time period, Johansson and Percy ignore the Biblical record, but they are correct that the Jews' opposition to homosexuality was a central factor in their hostility to the Greeks. They continue (somewhat bitterly), describing the context in which the first clash of these value systems occurred:

At the heart of the "sodomy delusion" lies the Judaic rejection of Hellenism and *paiderasteia*, one of the distinctive features of the culture brought by the Greek conquerors of Asia Minor. It is a fundamental, ineluctable clash of values within what was destined to become Western civilization. Only in the Maccabean era did the opposition to Hellenization and everything Hellenic lead to the intense, virtually paranoid hatred and condemnation of male homosexuality, a hatred that Judaism bequeathed to the nascent Christian church (ibid.:36).



Hellenism-inspired statue in the House of German Art is part of a tour of Berlin given to Italian Fascist leader Benito Mussolini by Adolf Hitler in 1937.

In his article “Homosexuality and the Maccabean Revolt,” Catholic scholar Patrick G. D. Riley also identifies homosexuality as the focal point of conflict between the Jews and the Greeks. The Greek King, Antiochus, had ordered that all the nations of his empire be “welded... into a single people” (Riley:14).⁴² This created a crisis for the Jews, forcing them to choose between faithfulness to Biblical commandments (at the risk of martyrdom) and participation in a range of desecrations from “the sacrificing of pigs and the worshiping of idols, to ‘leaving their sons uncircumcised, and prostituting themselves to all kinds of impurity and abomination’ (1 Macc. 1:49-51)” (ibid.:14).

The Greeks also built one of their *gymnasia* in Jerusalem, which “attracted the noblest young men of Israel...*subduing them under the petaso*” (emphasis ours -- 2 Macc. 4:12). In the traditional Latin translation the above phrase is rendered “to put in brothels” (Riley:15). The *gymnasia* were notorious throughout the ancient world for their association with homosexual practices. In fact, Flaceliere concludes from Plutarch’s writings that from the beginning of its acceptance in Greece, “the development of homosexuality was connected to the rise of *gymnasia*...[which usually contained] not only a statue of Hermes, but also one of Eros” (Flaceliere:65).⁴³

The tensions which led to the Jewish revolt were exacerbated when the Jewish high priest, a Hellenist himself, offered a sacrifice to Heracles (Hercules), who was a Greek symbol of homosexuality. Riley adds, “The Jewish temple itself became the scene of pagan sacrificial meals and sexual orgies [including homosexuality].” The final insult (for which Antiochus is identified in the Bible as the archetype of the antichrist) “was the installation in the temple of a pagan symbol, possibly a representation of Zeus [Baal], called by a sardonic pun ‘the abomination of desolation’” (Riley:16).

In the ensuing religious revolt, the Maccabees “preserved what would become the moral charter of Christendom, just as in defending marriage they saved what would be the very material of its construction, namely, the family” (ibid.:17). Yet, though they preserved the Judeo-Christian sexual ethic, the Maccabees did not vanquish Greek philosophy as a rival social force. Of the two irreconcilable belief systems, the Judeo-Christian one would prevail, allowing the development of what we know today as Western culture; yet Hellenism survived.

Adolf Brand and the “Community of the Elite”

One of the earliest leaders of the masculine homosexual counter-movement in Germany, himself a Hellenist, was Adolf Brand. In 1896, one year before Magnus Hirschfeld formed the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, young Adolf Brand began publishing the world’s first homosexual serial publication, *Der Eigene* (“The Elite”). [The word *Eigene*, eye'-geneh, can be roughly translated “queer,” which may shed some light on the derivation of this term in English, but we have chosen the translation used most often by historians because it emphasizes the elitist philosophy of *Der Eigene*’s authors.] Besides being militantly pro-homosexual, *Der Eigene* was racist, nationalistic and anti-Semitic. Mosse writes,



Adolf Brand 1907

The use of racism to gain respectability was a constant theme of the first homosexual journal in Germany, *Der Eigene*...Even before the paper published a supplement called *Rasse und Schönheit* (Race and Beauty) in 1926, Germanic themes had informed much of its fiction, as well as images of naked boys and young men photographed against a background of Germanic nature. One poem, written by Brand himself and entitled, “The Superman,” praised manliness, condemned femininity, and toyed with anti-Semitism, apparently because of the poet’s quarrel with Magnus Hirschfeld, a rival for leadership of the homosexual rights movement (Mosse:42).

Brand’s stated market for *Der Eigene* was men who “thirst for a revival of Greek times and Hellenic standards of beauty after centuries of Christian barbarism” (Brand in Oosterhuis and Kennedy:3).

In 1903 Brand was briefly jailed as a child pornographer for publishing pictures of nude boys in the magazine, but nevertheless *Der Eigene* remained in publication until 1931, peaking at over 150,000 subscriptions during the years of the Weimar Republic [1919-1933] (Mosse:42). In addition to *Der Eigene*, Brand published a satirical journal *Die Tante* (“The Fairy” or “The Auntie”) which often ridiculed Hirschfeld and his assistants (Oosterhuis and Kennedy:6).

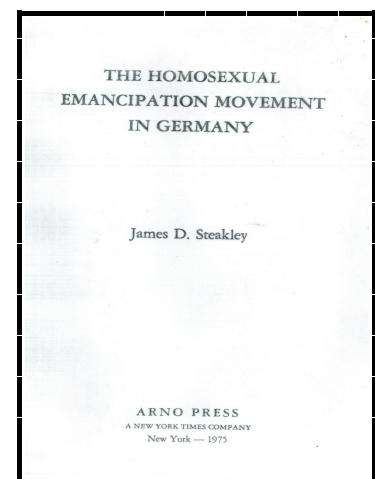
On May 1, 1902, Brand and two pederasts, Wilhelm Jansen and Benedict Friedlander, formed the *Gemeinschaft der Eigenen* (“Community of the Elite”). Its leading theorist was Friedlander (1866-1908), author of *Renaissance des Eros Uranios* (“Renaissance of Uranian Erotica”), a 1904 publication which featured a picture of a Greek youth on the cover. Friedlander wrote that the Community wanted to carry out the goals of the lesbian and radical feminist Dr. Helene Stocker who wanted German society to revert to pagan values. Friedlander writes, The positive goal...is the revival of Hellenic chivalry and its recognition by society. By chivalric love we mean in particular close friendships between youths and even more particularly the bonds between men of unequal ages (B. Friedlander:259).⁴⁴

According to James Steakley in *The Homosexual Emancipation Movement in Germany*:

The Community looked to ancient Greece and Renaissance Italy as model civilizations and argued that Christian asceticism was responsible for the demise of homosexual relations. Friedlander, who was married, advocated pedophile relations combined with family life, and Brand contrasted his journal with Hirschfeld’s *Jahrbuch* by saying he wanted to show “more of the Hellenic side of things” (Steakley:43).

Steakley goes on to show how the Community supported the work of Elisar von Kupffer, a “Butch” homosexual and an advocate of “Greek love,” who strongly attacked the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee as pseudo-scientific (Steakley:46).

In *Homosexuality and Male Bonding in Pre-Nazi*



Germany, Oosterhuis and Kennedy write that “Kuppfer stated in a letter of 25 December 1925 to Brand that the word ‘homosexual’ was repugnant to him, because it reminded him of the ‘fairies’ in Hirschfeld’s Committee, and he requested Brand never to mention his name in such a context” (Oosterhuis and Kennedy:34).

Friedlander described heterosexuals and effeminate homosexuals as *Kummerlings* (puny beings). The Ulrichs-Hirschfeld school believed that both homosexuality and heterosexuality were equal and legitimate forms of sexual love. However, the Brand-Friedlander school believed that eros (sexual love) had a rising scale of worth, with heterosexuality at the bottom and pederasty at the top. Steakley writes, “For the Community, however, heterosexual relations were relegated to purely procreative ends and the esthetic superiority of pedophile relations was asserted” (Steakley:46). In other words, heterosexuals were valued only as “breeders.”

Friedlander also quoted from Gustav Jager who argued that, in contrast to the “Fems,” masculine homosexuals were *Uebermaenner* (supermen), superior to heterosexuals because they were even more masculine (Oosterhuis and Kennedy:87). Some of the pederasts of the Community of the Elite did not consider themselves homosexuals at all, declaring the “love of friends” and homosexuality two different phenomena (ibid.:86).

Friedlander for a time was a member of both the Community of the Elite and the SHC. A review of his articles written for the SHC reveal that he endeavored to convince the members of the group that they were not going far enough: the SHC simply wanted the “right to privacy,” but the Community of the Elite wanted a complete transformation of Germany from a Judeo-Christian society to a Greco-Uranian one. But the leadership of the SHC was never convinced. The two philosophies were just too different.

In 1906 Friedlander left the SHC and, hoping to discredit Hirschfeld, strongly hinted that Hirschfeld and other leaders of the SHC had mismanaged the Committee’s Funds. But this was not the real reason for his departure. Steakley writes,

The membership of the Community realized that the Committee’s petition, which called for the legalization of same-sex relations only between those over the age of sixteen, neglected their interests. They were also affronted by Hirschfeld’s personal effeminacy and his sweeping classification of all homosexuals in one category [as “Fems”] (Steakley:47f).

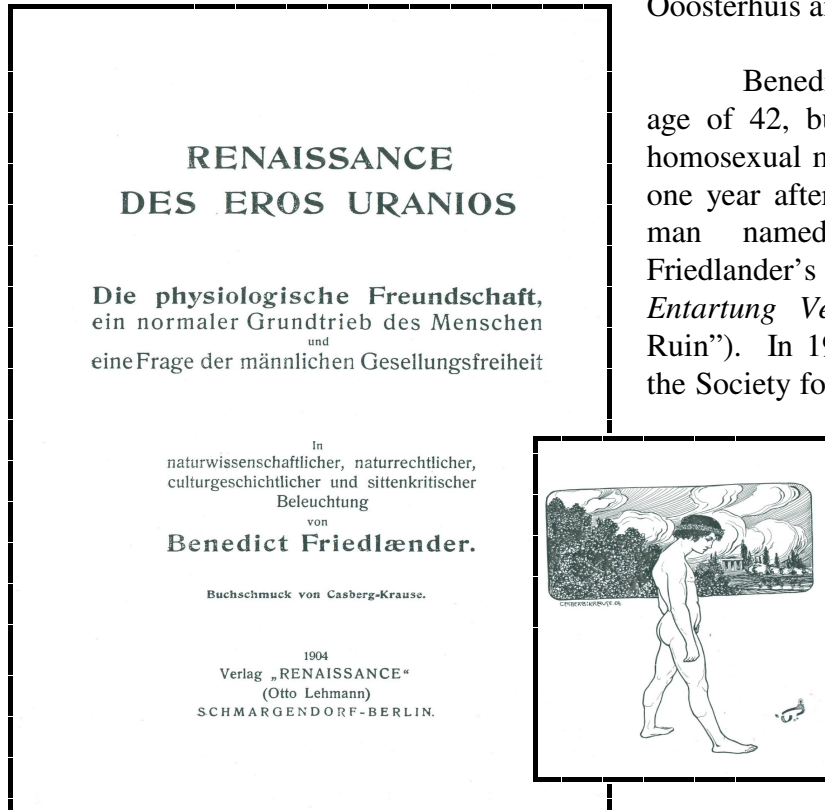
After his falling-out with Hirschfeld and the leaders of the SHC, Friedlander continued to try to sway its members regarding pederasty as well as to attract its financial supporters to the Community of the Elite. In 1907, Friedlander published an article in *Der Eigene* with a long but revealing title: “Memoirs for the Friends and Contributors of the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee in the Name of the Succession of the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee.” In the



Benedict Friedlander

article, Friedlander said that the Greek “love of youth” (pederasty) was the cause of Paragraph 175. He said that the law was not enacted because of men, but rather because of their jealous wives and mistresses who viewed young boys “as a kind of unfair competition” (*Journal of Homosexual-ity*, Jan.-Feb. 1991). In the same article Friedlander writes,

Let us just understand that no one can be a good educator who does not love his pupils! And let us not lie to ourselves that in love the so-called “spiritual” element can ever be completely detached from its physiological foundation. It is an eternal verity: only a good pederast can be a complete pedagogue (Friedlander in Oosterhuis and Kennedy:77ff).



Title page and cover picture from Benedict Friedlander's *Renaissance of Uranian Erotica*, 1904. The sub-title reads: "Physiological friendship, a normal fundamental drive of men, and a question of male freedom of association in natural science, natural rights, cultural-history and moral criticism.

Benedict Friedlander died in 1908 at the age of 42, but his influence on the German homosexual movement endured. In 1934, just one year after Adolf Hitler came to power, a man named Kurt Hildebrandt echoed Friedlander's views in a book titled *Norm Entartung Verfall* ("Ideal - Degeneration - Ruin"). In 1934 Hildebrandt was a leader in the Society for Human Rights (SHR), a spinoff of the Community of the Elite. He referred to Friedlander as his “master” and asserted that Greek pederasty had led to “an enhancement of masculinity” (Steakley:49). In *Norm Entartung Verfall*, Hildebrandt presents the Brand-Friedlander theory that masculine homosexuals are

the ideal; a master race of beings, and that effeminate homosexuals are, in fact, degenerations of the ideal. Hildebrandt declares that the masculine type is the one that “Nature” intended to rule the world, but that the effeminate types were freaks of nature

who would bring any Hellenic society to destruction. Hildebrandt writes,

It is incomprehensible that these forms should be confused with that type of homosexuality about which such a ruckus is made today. The latter arises contrarily in groups of effeminate men; it counteracts military and intellectual manliness...and is certain of ruin (Hildebrandt :207).⁴⁵

In many ways it is Friedlander's theory of homosexuality that we see implemented in the

policies of the Nazis. Although there were obvious exceptions made for political reasons, there is evidence to suggest that only the effeminate homosexuals were mistreated under the Nazi regime -- and usually at the hands of masculine homosexuals. (We will consider the internment of "Roehm's Avengers" -- "Butch" homosexuals of the SA interned in the wake of the Roehm purge -- in a later section). Some historians, such as James Steakley, see Friedlander's influence in Adolf Hitler's own philosophy of homosexuality as well. Steakley writes,

Hitler, on the other hand, was the Nazi visionary...and there is a truly striking affinity between his views on homosexuality and those of Friedlander and [Hans] Blüher. These male supremacists wanted to create a new Hellas peopled by strong, naked, but chaste men, inspired by heroism and capable of leadership (Steakley:119).

The Rift Widens

It is clear that Adolf Brand's Community of the Elite wanted nothing to do with Ulrichs' theory of *anima muliebris in corpore virili inclusa* ("a female soul confined in a male body").



They perceived themselves as fully masculine and despised everything female and effeminate. For many years, Ulrichs' "Fem" faction had dominated the German homosexual movement. But during this time, the rift between the "Butches" and the "Fems" grew increasingly wider as the revival of Hellenic pagan values began to transform German society.

As early as 1908, Hirschfeld wrote that the scandals and division of opinion between the "Butches" and "Fems" was damaging the homosexual cause in Germany. He criticized the Community of the Elite for being anti-feminist. In 1914, reflecting the increase of tensions, Hirschfeld characterized the Community of the Elite as "exaggerated side-currents" and "fanatics" (Oosterhuis and Kennedy:24f). At this point Hirschfeld still controlled the movement,

but somewhere between 1914 and 1920 the “Butches” became a serious political force themselves. In 1920, they formed the Society for Human Rights (SHR). The title seems to lay claim to what had become the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee’s trademark: political activism under the banner of “gay rights.” Two years later the new SHR published the following, now militant, call to arms:

We no longer want only a few scientists [i.e., Hirschfeld et al.] struggling for our cause, we want to demonstrate our strength ourselves. Here we stand, demanding that which is our right — and who would dare challenge us? For this reason we must work steadily and everyone must take their part in our work. No homosexual should be absent -- rich or poor, worker or scholar, diplomat or businessman. We cannot deprive ourselves of any support. Therefore join us, swell our ranks before it is too late. At Easter we must show whether we have developed into a fighting organization or just a social club. He who does not march with us is against us (Steakley:76f).

Here we can see the militaristic tone of the “Butch” faction and sense its eagerness to wrest control of the movement from the SHC. Jonathan Katz records, in *Gay American History*, that “[the SHR became] the largest of the Gay groups in Germany during the 1920s, one that aimed at being a ‘mass’ organization, and it criticized Hirschfeld’s scientific approach” (J. Katz:632). Bear in mind that these were also the early years of the Nazi Party, an organization which shared some founding members with the SHR. Increasingly, the Nazi Party became the vehicle with which the “Butches” opposed Hirschfeld.

In July of 1927, after a Nazi Party member made a speech attacking the SHC, Hirschfeld wrote in the SHC newsletter, “We further feel obliged to urgently request of our numerous members in the National Socialist German Workers Party...that they vigorously call their delegates [to the Reichstag] to order” (Steakley:91). The rather desperate tone of Hirschfeld’s complaint reflects the reality that his faction had by this time lost control.

To some extent, the homosexuals of the SHC may have brought on themselves the later wrath of the Nazis. In the 1920s and 30s the political enemies of the Nazis used the Nazis’ homosexual scandals against them, hurting the party’s effort to gain legitimacy. Stories were printed in the newspapers containing “inside” information about homosexual activities among the Nazi leaders. The most noteworthy example of this tactic was when documentation of Ernst Roehm’s proclivity for boys, in the form of handwritten letters from Roehm himself, was leaked to the Social Democrat newspapers (Oosterhuis and Kennedy:239n).

The Social Democrat Party, of course, was the home of many of the effeminate homosexuals, which the Nazis well knew. It is likely that they suspected some of the inside information against them had come from Hirschfeld’s camp. This was probably an accurate surmise. Steakley writes that “Hirschfeld was later sorely discredited within the homosexual community of Germany when it was revealed that he at least occasionally ‘leaked’ information on homosexuals to the press” (Steakley:64). This may help to explain why the Nazis bore such enmity against the “Fems,” and why they targeted certain of these homosexuals for persecution. However, the Nazis needed no special justification for revenge. The fact that the SHC had made opposition to pederasty an essential tenet of their political strategy was enough. Though not a Nazi, the “Butch” homosexual poet, Stefan George, summed up the attitude of the anti-

Hirschfeld camp, saying, “It should be apparent that we have nothing to do with those far from charming people who whimper for the repeal of certain laws, for the most revolting attacks against us [pederasts] have issued from precisely these circles” (George in Steakley:49).

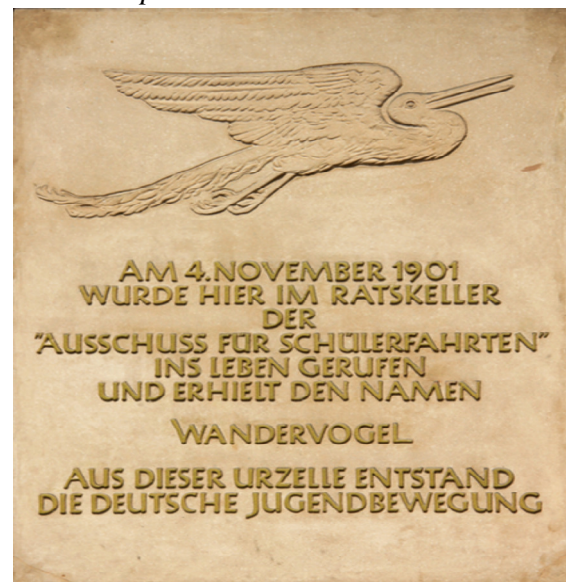
As we can see, understanding the “gay rights” movement in Germany is essential to a complete understanding of the formation of the Nazi Party and the policies of the Third Reich. In turn, understanding the German “gay rights” movement requires an appreciation of the rivalry between the two distinct homosexual factions: the Ulrichs/Hirschfeld “Fems” and the Brand /Friedlander/Roehm “Butches.” Their contest for domination of the “gay rights” movement ended when the “Butches” of the Nazi Party came to power in 1933 and began to construct the Third Reich. They had realized their dream of a revived Hellenic culture of ultra-masculine militarism, a dream that was to prove a nightmare for all those who fell short of the Nazi ideal.

Hans Blueher and the *Wandervoegel*

“In Germany,” writes Mosse, “ideas of homosexuality as the basis of a better society can be found at the turn of the century within the German Youth Movement” (Mosse:87). Indeed, at the same time that Brand and Friedlander were beginning to articulate their dream of a neo-Hellenic Germany to the masses, a youthful subculture of boys and young men was already beginning to act out its basic themes under the leadership of men like Karl Fischer, Wilhelm Jansen and youth leader Hans Blueher. In *Sexual Experience Between Men and Boys*, homosexualist historian Parker Rossman writes,

In Central Europe...there was another effort to revive the Greek ideal of pedagogic pederasty, in the movement of Wandering Youth [*Wandervoegel*]. Modern gay homosexuality also can trace some of its roots to that movement of men and boys who wandered around the countryside, hiking and singing hand-in-hand, enjoying nature, life together, and their sexuality. Ultimately Hitler used and transformed the movement — much as the Romans had abused the *paiderastia* of the ancient Greeks —expanding and building upon its romanticism as a basis for the Nazi Party (Rossman:103).⁴⁶

Another homosexualist, Richard Mills, explains in *Gay Roots: Twenty Years of Gay Sunshine* how the *Wandervoegel* movement traces its roots to an informal hiking and camping society of young men started in 1890 by a fifteen-year-old student named Hermann Hoffman. For several years the open-air lifestyle of these boys grew increasingly popular. They developed their own form of greeting, the “Heil” salute, and “much of the vocabulary...[which] was later appropriated by the Nazis” (Mills:168). Early in its development, the movement attracted the attention of homosexual men, including the pederasts who



Modern German roadside placard commemorating the *Wandervoegel*

belonged to the Community of the Elite. In 1901 a teacher by the name of Karl Fischer (who, as we have mentioned, called himself *der Fuehrer*) formalized the movement under the name *Wandervoegel* (Koch:25, Mills:153).

Hans Blueher, then just seventeen years old, organized the most ambitious *Wandervoegel* excursion to that date in 1905. It was on this trip that Blueher met Wilhelm Jansen, one of the original founders of the Community of the Elite. At this time the *Wandervoegel* numbered fewer than one hundred young men, but eventually the number of youths involved in *Wandervoegel*-type groups in Europe reached 60,000. Wilhelm Jansen became an influential leader in the *Wandervoegel*, but rumors of his homosexuality disturbed German society. In 1911, Jansen addressed the issue in a circular to *Wandervoegel* parents. Jansen told them, “As long as they conduct themselves properly with your sons, you will have to accustom yourselves to the presence of so-called homosexuals in your ranks” (Mills:167).

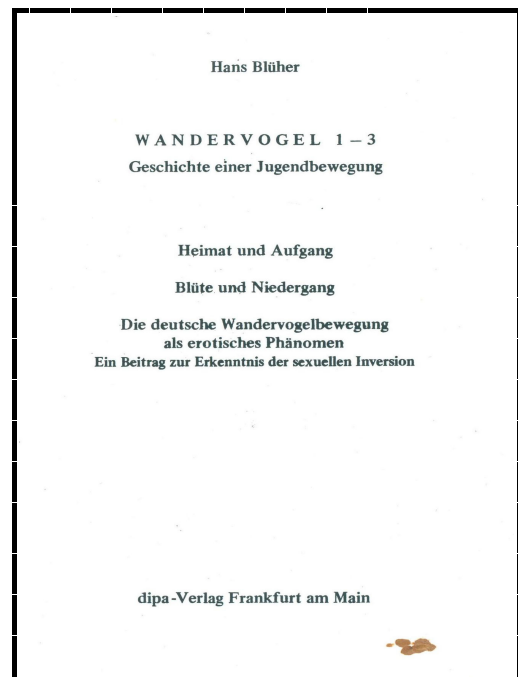
Hans Blueher further substantiated the fact that the movement had become a vehicle for homosexual recruitment of boys with his publication of *The German Wandervoegel Movement as an Erotic Phenomenon* in 1914 (Rector:39f). Mills writes,

[T]he Wandervoegel offered youth the chance to escape bourgeois German society by retreating back to nature...But how was this accomplished? What made it possible for the lifestyle created within the Wandervoegel to differ significantly from its bourgeois parent? The answer is simple: the Wandervoegel was founded upon homosexual, as opposed to heterosexual sentiments ...In order to understand the success of the movement, one must acknowledge the homosexual component of its leaders...Just as the leaders were attracted to the boys, so were the boys attracted to their leaders. In both cases the attraction was sexually based (Mills 152-53).

Like many of the “Butch” homosexuals Blueher had married but only for the purpose of procreation. “Woe to the man who has placed his fate in the hands of a woman,” he wrote. “Woe to the civilization that is subjected to womens’ influence” (Blueher in Igra:95).



Hans Blueher. His book *The German Wandervoegel Movement as an Erotic Phenomenon* was an unapologetic defense of pederasty as a basis for the youth movement.



Foreshadowing the Nazi regime, Blueher “saw male bonding as crucial to the formation of male elites,” writes homosexualist historian Warren Johansson. “The discipline, the comradeship, the willingness of the individual to sacrifice himself for the nation -- all these are determined by the homoerotic infrastructure of the male society” (Johansson:816). Mills adds that Blueher “believed that male homosexuality was the foundation upon which all forms of nation-states are built” (Mills:152). Blueher called his hypothetical political figures “heroic males,” meaning self-accepting masculine homosexuals. It is precisely this concept of the “heroic male” that prompts Steakley to compare Adolf Hitler’s views to those of Blueher and Friedlander.

But this is not the only instance in which the views of Blueher and Friedlander coincide. Like Friedlander, Blueher believed that homosexuals were the best teachers of children. “There are five sexual types of men, ranging from the exclusively heterosexual to the exclusively homosexual,” writes Blueher. “The exclusive heterosexual is the one least suited to teach young people...[but exclusive homosexuals] are the focal point of all youth organizations” (ibid.:154).

Blueher was also anti-Semitic. In writing about his visit with Magnus Hirschfeld and the SHC, Blueher denigrated Hirschfeld’s egalitarian views, complaining that “concepts like rank, race, physiognomy... things of importance to me -- were simply not applicable in this circle.” Igra adds that “[a]ccording to Blueher, Germany was defeated [in W.W.I] because the homosexualist way of life (*die maennerbuendische Weltanschauung*) had been considerably neglected and warlike virtues had degenerated under the advance of democratic ideas, the increasing prestige of family life...the growing influence of women “and, above all, the Jews” (emphasis ours -- Igra:97).

Importantly, Blueher’s hostility towards the Jews was not primarily based on a racial theory but on their rejection of homosexuality. Igra writes, Soon after the defeat [of Germany in W.W.I] Blueher delivered a lecture to a group of *Wandervoegel*, which he himself had founded. The lecture was entitled “The German Reich, Jewry and Socialism.” He said: ‘There is no people whose destiny...so closely resembles ours as that of the Jews.’ The Jews were conquered by the Romans, lost their State and became only a race whose existence is maintained through the family. The primary cause of this collapse, he says, was that the Jews had failed to base their State on the homoerotic male community and had staked all on the family life, with its necessary concomitant of women’s encouragement of the civic and social and spiritual virtues in their men-folk rather than the warlike qualities (ibid.:97).

Though largely neglected by historians, Blueher was enormously important to Nazi culture. No less a figure than Alfred Rosenberg adhered to Blueher’s theories. In *Social Movements: An Introduction to Political Sociology*, Volume 3, scholar Rudolf Heberle writes:

The highly controversial thesis of Hans Blueher that the youth movement was held together largely by erotic relationships between young leaders and their followers was accepted as a desirable principle of social organization by leading Nazi intellectuals like Rosenberg. These advanced the theory that the state, instead of being an extension of kinship and tribal groups, was essentially an outgrowth of the *Mannerbund*, that is, the band of young warriors, who attach themselves to a leading hero, and form a ruling elite in the larger community (R. Heberle:138).⁴⁷

Igra adds that in the Third Reich “Blueher...[was] adopted by the Nazis as an apostle of social reform. And one of his disciples, Professor Alfred Bauemler...[became] Director of the Political Institute at the University of Berlin” (ibid.:75). Writing before the collapse of the Third Reich, he adds that “[Blueher’s teaching] has been systematically inculcated by the Nazi Press, especially Himmler’s official organ, *Das Schwarze Korps*, and has been adopted in practice as the basis of German social organization. The Nazi élite are being brought up in segregated male communities called *Ordensburgen*. These are to replace the family as the groundwork on which the state is to rest” (Igra:87). The all-male societies of these *Ordensburgen* (Order Castles) were fashioned after the *Wandervoegel*.

Through his influence in the *Wandervoegel* and later as a fascist theoretician, Hans Blueher must be recognized as a major force in the reshaping of Germany. This (and the homosexuality of other *Wandervoegel* leaders) is acknowledged by homosexualist author Frank Rector:

Blueher's case further explains why many Nazi Gays were attracted to Hitler and his shrill anti-Semitism, for many gentile homosexuals were rabidly anti-Semitic...Gays in the youth movement who espoused anti-Semitism, chauvinism, and the *Fuehrer Prinzip* (Leader Principle) were not-so-incipient Fascists. They helped create a fertile ground for Hitler’s movement and, later, became one of its main sources of adherents....A substantial number of those Wandervoegel leaders were known homosexuals, and many others were allegedly gay (or bisexual) (Rector:40).



Profile: **Alfred Ernst Rosenberg** (12 January 1893 – 16 October 1946) was an early and highly influential member of the Nazi Party and close personal friend of Adolf Hitler. Executed by hanging after his conviction at Nuremberg, Rosenberg was Nazism’s leading ideologue and shaped numerous key policies including the persecution of the Jews, and the Aryan racial breeding program called *Lebensborn*. Rosenberg was heavily influenced by the theories of Hans Blueher and embraced Blueher’s vision of the homoerotic *mannerbund* as the basis for the new social order of Germany.

From Boy Scouts to Brownshirts

In the introduction to his book *The Pink Triangle*, homosexual author Richard Plant writes of his own experience in the *Wandervoegel* (which was also known as “Rovers.”) “In such brotherhoods,” writes Plant, “a few adolescents had little affairs, misty and romantic sessions around a blazing fire...Other boys...talked openly about ‘going with friends’ and enjoying it. The leaders of these groups tended to disregard the relationships blossoming around them -- unless

they participated” (Plant:3).

Blueher himself described the homosexual quality of the group as follows:

The Wandervoegel movement inspired the youth all around during the first six years of its existence, without awaking the slightest suspicion...towards its own members...Only very seldom might one might notice one of the leaders raising questions of why he and his comrades didn't want any girls...[later] the name Wandervoegel was mentioned in the same breath as the words “pederasty club” (Blueher:23f).

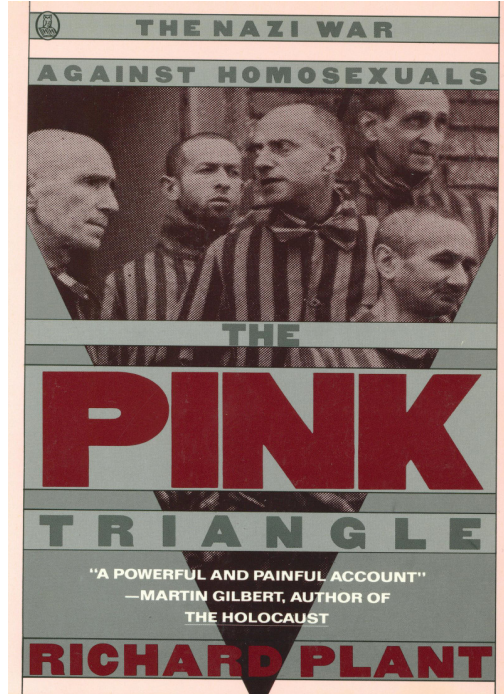
Richard Plant's reminiscences also substantiate that the *Wandervoegel* groups served as a training ground for Nazis. He recalls his friend in the Rovers, “Ferdi, who explained and demonstrated the mysteries of sex to me and my friends.” Plant was later shocked, he says, upon returning to Germany from abroad “to see Ferdi wearing a brown shirt with a red, white and black swastika armband” (ibid.:4).

E.Y. Hartshorne, in *German Youth and the Nazi Dream of Victory* records the recollections of a former *Wandervoegel* member who confirms that the organization was the source of important elements of Nazi culture. Our knowledge of the influence of the Community of the Elite on the *Wandervoegel* may provide us insight into the cryptic comment at the end of the testimony:

We little suspected then what power we had in our hands. We played with the fire that had set a world in flames, and it made our hearts hot. Mysticism and everything mystical had dominion over us. It was in our ranks that the word *Fuehrer* originated, with its meaning of blind obedience and devotion. The word *Bund* arose with us too, with its mysterious undertone of conspiracy. And I shall never forget how in those early days we pronounced the word *Gemeinschaft* [“community”] with a trembling throaty note of excitement, as though it hid a deep secret (Hartshorne:12).⁴⁸

The revival of homoerotic Hellenic culture in the German youth movement, then, was an integral factor in the rise of Nazism. Right under the nose of traditional German society, the pederasts laid the groundwork for the ultra masculine military society of the Third Reich.

The *Wandervoegel* was certainly not a “homosexual organization” per se, but its homosexual leaders molded the youth movement into an expression of their own Hellenic ideology and, in the process, recruited countless young men into the homosexual lifestyle. The first members of the *Wandervoegel* grew to manhood just in time to provide the Nazi movement with its support base in the German culture. As Steakley put it, “[the] Free German Youth jubilantly marched off to war, singing the old *Wandervoegel* songs to which new, chauvinistic



verses were added” (Steakley:58).

These young men who had been molded by the Hellenic philosophies of the youth movement came of age just in time to fight in the first World War. There, they were further shaped and seasoned by the hardships and horrors of trench warfare. Indeed, it was in the trenches of World War I that the concept of *Sturmabteilung* (Storm Troops) was developed — elite, hard-hitting units whose task it was to “storm” the enemy lines. The tactics of the Storm Troopers proved to be so effective that they were quickly adopted throughout the German army. The Storm Troop system created a tremendous increase in the number of young commanders of a certain breed. Waite writes,

Only a very special type of officer could be used. He must be unmarried, under twenty-five years of age, in excellent physical health... and above all he must possess in abundance that quality which German military writers call ruthlessness. The result was that at the time of the Armistice Germany was flooded with hundreds of capable, arrogant young commanders who found an excellent outlet for their talents in the Free Corps movement (Waite.:27).

It is not difficult to recognize that the description of the preferred Storm Trooper is a model of the *Wandervoegel* hero: ultramasculine, militaristic, physically conditioned, largely unrestrained by Judeo-Christian morality, and guided by the “Fuehrer Principle” (ibid.:28). It is no wonder, then, that many of these men became youth leaders in their turn (ibid.:210).

Gerhard Rossbach and the Freikorps Movement

The *Freikorps* (Free Corps) movement began during the years immediately following the close of World War I. After the war and the subsequent socialist revolution in Germany in 1918, tens of thousands of former soldiers of the German army volunteered for quasi-military service in a number of independent *Freikorps* reserve units under the command of former junior officers of the German army. These units were highly nationalistic and became increasingly violent as the social chaos of the Weimar Republic worsened.

Gerhard Rossbach led one of these *Freikorps*. His group, originally called the *Rossbachbund* (“Rossbach Brotherhood”)



Nazi propaganda poster featuring the SA or Storm Troops



Rossbach (wearing armband) with SA Stormtroopers, May 1, 1923.

exemplified the *Freikorps* movement. As Waite records in *Vanguard of Nazism*, “the lieutenants and the captains—Roehm...Ehrhardt, Rossbach, Schultz and the rest — formed the backbone of the Free Corps movement. And...it was they who were the link between the Volunteers [anti-communists] and National Socialism” (Waite, 1969:45).

Once again we see the essential relationship between homosexuality and Nazism, since many of these “lieutenants and captains” were known or probable homosexuals, some of whom eventually served in the SA. German historian and Hitler contemporary Konrad Heiden writes that “[m]any sections of this secret army of mercenaries and murderers were breeding places of perversion” (Heiden:30).⁴⁹ Historian G. S. Graber agrees:

Many...[*Freikorps*] leaders were homosexual; indeed homosexuality appears to have been widespread in several volunteer units. Gerhard Rossbach...was an open homosexual. On his staff was Lieutenant Edmund Heines who was later to become the lover of Ernst Roehm (Graber:33).⁵⁰

Waite’s analysis shows that the *Freikorps* movement was one intervening phase between the *Wandervoegel* movement and the Nazi *Stuermabteilung* — the SA. “The generation to which the *Freikorpskaempfer* [‘Free Corps warriors’] belonged,” writes Waite, “the generation born in the 1890s—participated in two experiences which were to have tremendous effect on his



A *Freikorps* unit marches through a German city.

subsequent career as a Volunteer [in the *Freikorps*]. The first of these was the pre-war Youth Movement; the second, World War I" (Waite, 1969:17). As for Rossbach's influence on the youth movement Waite adds,

With the exception of Ehrhardt, Gerhard Rossbach, sadist, murderer, and homosexual [founder of the Nazi "Brownshirts"] was the most admired hero of nationalistic German youth. "In Ehrhardt, but also in Rossbach," says a popular book on the youth movement, "we see the Fuehrer of our youth. These men have become the Ideal Man, idolized...and honored as

can only happen when the personality of an individual counts for more than anything else"...the most important single contributor of the pre-Hitler youth movement [was] Gerhard Rossbach (Waite, 1969:210f).

In the days before Baldur von Schirach developed the Hitler Youth, Rossbach organized Germany's largest youth organization, named the *Schilljugend* ("Schill Youth") in honor of a famous Prussian soldier executed by Napoleon (ibid:210n).

But Rossbach's contribution to the Nazis was far greater than the mere shaping of young men into Nazi loyalists. It was Rossbach who formed the original terrorist organization which eventually became the Nazi Storm Troopers, also known as "Brown Shirts." Both the Rossbach Storm Troopers and the *Schilljugend* were unique among their peers for wearing brown shirts which had been prepared for German colonial troops, acquired from the old Imperial army stores (as opposed to the grey shirts of the regular army worn by all of the others) (Koehl:19).

It is reasonable to suppose that without Rossbach's Storm Troopers, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis would never have gained power in Germany. In the classic work *Der Fuehrer*, Hitler contemporary Konrad Heiden describes them:

Rossbach's troop, roaring, brawling, carousing, smashing windows, shedding blood...was especially proud to be different from the others. Heines had belonged to it before joining Hitler; then Rossbach and Heines had formed a center with Roehm; it led the SA while Hitler was under arrest [for leading the Beer Hall *Putsch*] (Heiden, 1944:295).

Rossbach's *Freikorps* was formed almost exclusively of homosexuals. As fascist novelist, Edwin Dwinger, would later declare through one of his characters, Captain Werner, "Freikorps men aren't almost all bachelors for nothing. Believe me, if there weren't so many of their kind, our ranks would be pretty damn thin" (Theweleit, Vol 1:33).⁵¹ Rossbach's adjutant,

Edmund Heines, was another pederast and a convicted murderer who later became Ernst Roehm's adjutant in the SA (he was also the sexual partner of Rossbach, Roehm and possibly Hitler as well). During the incident known alternately as "The Night of the Long Knives" and the Roehm Purge" in which Hitler killed Roehm and a number of other SA leaders, Heines was

surprised in bed with a young SA recruit (Gallo:236).⁵² Historian Frank Rector describes Heines:

Distinguished by a girlish face on the body of a truck driver, Heines was an elegant, suave, and impeccably groomed killer. He liked to shoot his victims in the face with his 7.65 Walther automatic or beat them to death with a club...In addition to Heines' value as a first rate adjutant, gifted administrative executive, and aggressive and adroit SA leader, Heines had a marked talent as a procurer [of boys]...garnering the fairest lads in the Fatherland for...sexual amusement (Rector:89).

Perhaps because of Edmund Heines' special talent, Rossbach assigned him to develop the *Schilljugend*. Igra tells how he profited thereby:

Edmund Heines, the group-leader of the storm troops at Breslau, was a repulsive brute who turned the Nazi headquarters of the city into a homosexual brothel. Having 300,000 storm troopers under his command he was in a position to terrorize the neighborhood...One of his favorite ruses was to have members of the youth organization indulge in unnatural practices with one another and then threaten their parents that he would denounce these youths to the police...unless he received...hush money. Thus Heines not only indulged in homosexual orgies himself—he was often Roehm's consort in this—but he promoted the vice as a lucrative business (Igra:73).



Edmund Heines. Below (center) posing with Nazi Bicycle Company in the early days of the SA.

Baldur Von Shirach and the Hitler Youth

Indeed, not only did the grown-up former members of the *Wandervoegel* become one of Hitler's main sources of supporters in his rise to power, but the movement itself became the core of a Nazi institution: the *Hitler-Jugend* (Hitler Youth).



So rampant had homosexuality become in the movement by this time that *The Rheinische Zeitung*, a prominent German newspaper, warned, “Parents, protect your sons from ‘physical preparations’ in the Hitler Youth,” a sarcastic reference to problems of homosexuality in the organization (Burleigh and Wipperman:188).⁵³ Sadly, the boys themselves had by this time been completely indoctrinated by their homosexual masters.

Hans Peter Bleuel, in *Sex and Society in Nazi Germany*, points out that most of the adult supervisors of the Hitler Youth were also SA officers (who were almost exclusively homosexual). Rector states that Baldur von Schirach, leader of the Hitler Youth organization, was reportedly bisexual (Rector:56). In *Germany’s National Vice*, Jewish historian Samuel Igra confirms this, saying Schirach was arrested by the police for perverse sexual practices and liberated on the intervention of Hitler, who soon afterward made him leader of the Hitler Youth (Igra:72).

Igra further states that Schirach was known as “the baby” among the inner pederast clique around Hitler (ibid.:74). Rempel reports that Schirach always surrounded himself with a guard of handsome young men (Rempel:88). Psychiatrist Walter Langer in his 1943 secret wartime report, *The Mind of Adolf Hitler*, also writes of Schirach’s reputed homosexuality (Langer:99).⁵⁴

In 1934, the Gestapo reported forty cases of pederasty in just one troop of the Hitler Youth. Bleuel writes of the case of one supervisor, a 20-year-old man who was dismissed from the Hitler Youth in 1938. Yet he was transferred to the National Socialist Flying Corps (Civil Air Patrol) “and was assigned to supervise work by members of the Hitler Youth Gliding Association and eventually detained to help with physical check-ups—a grievous temptation. The man was once again caught sodomizing young men, but was not dismissed from the NSFK” (the National Socialist Flying Corps) - Bleuel:119).⁵⁵

Conditions were essentially the same in 1941. Bleuel reports of another homosexual flying instructor involved in “at least ten cases of homosexuality with student pilots of the Hitler Youth” and “a student teacher and student ...[who] had committed twenty-eight proven acts of indecency with twenty boys at Hitler Youth and Young Folk camps” (ibid.:119). He adds that “[t]hese cases were only the tip of the iceberg, for few misdemeanors within the Party became public in later years and even fewer came to trial” (ibid.:119).

The prevalence of homosexuality in the Hitler Youth is also confirmed by historian Gerhard Rempel in his book *Hitler’s Children: Hitler Youth and the SS*:



Hitler Youth leader Baldur von Schirach was known as “The Baby” by the Nazi inner circle of pederasts.



Hitler Youth meeting, January, 1934 in Munich.

Homosexuality, meanwhile, continued on into the war years when Hitler Jugend boys frequently became victims of molestations at the hands of their SS tutors; Himmler consistently took a hard line against it publicly but was quite willing to mitigate his penalties privately and keep every incident as secret as possible (Rempel:51f).⁵⁶

This last quote from Rempel raises two important points which will be addressed at greater length later in the book, but deserve at least some mention here. The first point is that Heinrich Himmler, who is often cited as being representative of the Nazi regime's alleged hatred of homosexuals, was obviously not overly concerned about homosexual occurrences in the ranks of his own organization. The second point is that this homosexual activity continued long after Hitler had supposedly purged homosexuals from the Nazi regime (in 1934) and promoted strict policies against homosexuality (from 1935 on). As we shall see later, these policies were primarily for public relations and were largely unenforced.

An interesting sideline to the story of the Hitler Youth illustrates both the control of the youth movement by pederasts and



Heinrich Himmler, later the Supreme Leader of the dreaded SS, got his start in the Nazi Party as a Brown Shirt under Ernst Roehm.



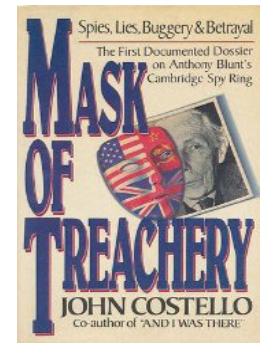
Hitler Youth
propaganda poster

the fundamental relationship between homosexuality and Nazism. In Great Britain, the pro-Nazis formed the Anglo-German Fellowship (AGF). The AGF was headed by British homosexuals Guy Francis de Moncy Burgess and Captain John Robert Macnamara. British Historian John Rempel relates how Burgess, Macnamara and J.H. Sharp, the Church of England's Arch-deacon for Southern Europe, took a trip to Germany to attend a Hitler Youth camp. In *Mask of Treachery*, John Costello writes,

In the spring of 1936, the trio set off for the Rhineland, accompanied by Macnamara's friend Tom Wylie, a young official in the War Office. Ostensibly they were escorting a group of pro-fascist schoolboys to a Hitler Youth camp. But from Burgess' uproariously bawdy account of how his companions discovered that the Hitler Jugend satisfied their sexual and political passions, the trip would have shocked their sponsors -- the Foreign Relations Council of the Church of England (Costello: 300).⁵⁷

In pre-World War II France, the pro-Nazi faction was represented by the Radical-Socialist Party (RSP) and the Popular Party (PP). The Secretary-General of the RSP was Edouard Pfeiffer. Costello writes of Guy Burgess' visit to Pfeiffer in Paris shortly before the war:

As a connoisseur of homosexual decadence, Pfeiffer had few equals, even in Paris. As an officer of the French Boy-Scout movement, his private life was devoted to the seduction of youth. Burgess discovered all this when he visited Pfeiffer's apartment in Paris and found...[him] with a naked young man...he explained to Burgess that the young man was a professional cyclist, who just happened to be a member of Jacques Doriot's Popular Party (ibid.:315).



Once again we see flagrant sexual perversion in the heart of the Nazi movement (importantly, long the "Roehm Purge" of 1934 supposedly purged homosexuality from the party). It appears also that the correlation between Nazism and homosexuality disregarded national boundaries. As we have seen, both Hans Blueher and Benedict Friedlander observed that youth organizations are often (in their view, appropriately) led by pederasts. Events in Europe during the first part of the twentieth century, particularly those involving the National Socialists, strongly support this assertion.

Ernst Roehm and the Development of the SA

Next to Adolf Hitler, Ernst Roehm was the man in Germany most responsible for the rise of Nazism, indeed of Hitler himself. Rector writes that "Hitler was, to a substantial extent, Roehm's protégé" (Rector:80). A driving force behind the National Socialist movement, Roehm

was one of the early founders of the Nazi Party. Both Roehm and Hitler had been members of the socialist terror group called the Iron Fist (Heiden, 1944:89).

It was at a meeting of the Iron Fist that Roehm reportedly met him and “saw in Hitler the demagogue he required to mobilize mass support for his secret army” (Hohne:20). With Roehm’s backing, Hitler became the first president of the Nazi Party in 1921 (ibid.:21). Shortly thereafter, Rossbach’s *Freikorps*, integrated into the Party first under Herman Goering’s and then Roehm’s authority, was transformed into the dreaded Nazi SA.

In his classic Nazi history, *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, author William Shirer describes Ernst Roehm as “a stocky, bull-necked, piggish-eyed, scar-faced professional soldier...[and] like so many of the early Nazis, a homosexual” (Shirer:64).⁵⁸ Roehm was recruited into homosexuality by Gerhard Rossbach (Flood:196).⁵⁹ Rector elaborates,



Hitler and Roehm share a laugh in the early days of the party.

Was not the most outstanding, most notorious, of all homosexuals the celebrated Nazi leader Ernst Roehm, the virile and manly chief of the SA, the *du* buddy of Adolf Hitler from the beginning of his political career? [Hitler allowed Roehm the rare privilege of addressing him with the familiar form “thou,” indicating intimate friendship]. Hitler’s rise had in fact depended upon Roehm and everyone knew it. Roehm’s gay fun and games were certainly no secret; his amorous forays to gay bars and gay Turkish baths were riotous. Whatever anti-homosexual sentiments may have been expressed by straight Nazis were more than offset by the reality of highly visible, spectacular, gay-loving Roehm. If there were occasional ominous rumblings and grumblings about “all those queers” in the SA and Movement, and some anti-gay flare-ups, homosexual Nazis felt more-or-less secure in the lap of the Party. After all, the National Socialist Party member who wielded the greatest power aside from Hitler was Roehm (Rector:50f).

Consistent with the elitist philosophies of Benedict Friedlander, Adolf Brand, and Hans Blueher, Roehm viewed homosexuality as the basis for a new society. Louis Snyder, prominent historian of the Nazi era, writes,

[Roehm] projected a social order in which homosexuality would be regarded as a human behavior pattern of high repute...he flaunted his homosexuality in public and insisted that his cronies do the same. What was needed, Roehm believed, was

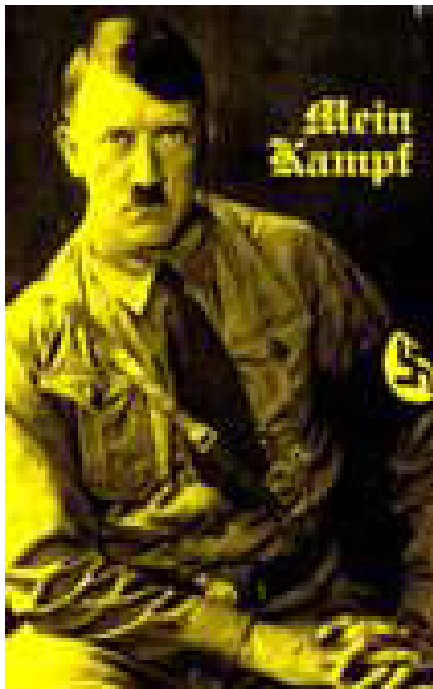
a proud and arrogant lot who could brawl, carouse, smash windows, kill and slaughter for the hell of it. Straights, in his eyes, were not as adept in such behavior as practicing homosexuals (Snyder:55).⁶⁰

Under Roehm, the SA became the instrument of Nazi terrorism in German society. It was officially founded on August 3, 1921, ostensibly as a “Special section for gymnastics and sport,” but in his first directive to the group, Hitler defined the SA’s purpose as “a means of defense for the movement, but above all a training school for the coming struggle for liberty” (Heiden, 1935:82f).⁶¹

Historian Thomas Fuchs reports that “The principle function of this army-like organization was beating up anyone who opposed the Nazis, and Hitler believed this was a job best undertaken by homosexuals” (Fuchs:48f).⁶² At first serving simply to protect the Nazis’ own meetings from disruptions by rivals and troublemakers, the SA soon expanded its strong-arm tactics to advance Nazi policies and philosophies. In a 1921 speech in Munich, Hitler set the stage for this activity: “[the] National Socialist movement will in future ruthlessly prevent if necessary by force all meetings or lectures that are likely to distract the minds of our fellow citizens.”

In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler describes an incident (when his men were attacked by Communists adversaries) which he considered the baptismal act of the SA:

When I entered the lobby of the Hofbrauhaus at quarter to eight, I no longer had any doubts as to the question of sabotage...The hall was very crowded...The small assault section was waiting for me in the lobby...I had the doors to the hall shut, and ordered my men — some forty-five or -six — to stand at attention... my men



from the Assault Section — from that day known as the SA — launched their attack. Like wolves in packs of eight or ten, they threw themselves on their adversaries again and again, overwhelming them with blows...In five minutes everyone was covered with blood. These were real men, whom I learned to appreciate on that occasion. They were led by my courageous Maurice. Hess, my private secretary, and many others who were badly hurt pressed the attack as long as they were able to stay on their feet (Hitler:504f).⁶³

In all actions the SA bore Roehm’s trademark of unabashed sadism. Max Gallo describes the organization:

Whatever the SA engage in—whether they are torturing a prisoner, cutting the throat of an adversary or pillaging an apartment—they behave as if they are within their rights, as artisans of the Nazi victory...They are the SA, beyond criticism. As

Roehm himself said many times: “The battalions of Brown Shirts were the

training school of National Socialism" (Gallo:38).

The favorite meeting place of the SA was a “gay” bar in Munich called the *Bratwurstgloeckl* where Roehm kept a reserved table (Hohne:82). This was the same tavern where some of the early meetings of the Nazi Party had been held (Rector:69). At the *Bratwurstgloeckl*, Roehm and associates—Edmund Heines, Karl Ernst, Ernst’s partner Captain [Paul] Rohrbein, Captain Petersdorf, Count Ernst Helldorf — would meet to plan and strategize. These were the men who orchestrated the Nazi campaign of intimidation and terror. All of them were homosexual (Heiden, 1944:371).

Indeed, homosexuality was all that qualified many of these men for their positions in the SA. Heinrich Himmler would later complain of this: “Does it not constitute a danger to the Nazi movement if it can be said that Nazi leaders are chosen for sexual reasons?” (Gallo:68). Himmler was not so much opposed to homosexuality itself as to the fact that non-qualified people were given high rank based on their homosexual relations with Roehm and others. For example, SA



Emile Maurice, Peter Granninger and Storm Trooper Schiedermeier at a reunion of the Old Guard, March 11, 1934. Maurice was Hitler’s homosexual chauffeur. Granninger was a pederast who owned the *Bratwurstgloeckl* and recruited teen boys from the local high school for “gay” sex with the Brown Shirts.

Obergruppenfuhrer (Lieutenant General) Karl Ernst, a militant homosexual, had been a hotel doorman and a waiter before joining the SA. “Karl Ernst is not yet thirty-five, writes Gallo, he commands 250,000 men...he is simply a sadist, a common thug, transformed into a responsible official” (ibid.:50f). Later, Ernst became a member of the German Parliament (Machtan:185).⁶⁴

Gallo writes,

Roehm, as the head of 2,500,000 Storm Troops had surrounded himself with a staff of perverts. His chiefs, men of rank of *Gruppenfuehrer* or *Obergruppenfuehrer*, commanding units of several hundred thousand Storm Troopers, were almost without exception homosexuals. Indeed, unless a Storm Troop officer were homosexual he had no chance of advancement” (Knickerbocker:55).⁶⁵

Otto Friedrich’s analysis in *Before the Deluge* is similar:

Under Rohm, the SA leadership acquired a rather special quality, however, for the crude and blustering *Oberster SA Fuehrer* was also a fervent homosexual, and he liked to surround himself, in all the positions of command, with men of similar persuasions (Friedrich:327).⁶⁶



In the SA, the Hellenic ideal of masculine homosexual supremacy and militarism had finally been realized. “Theirs was a very masculine brand of homosexuality,” writes homosexualist historian Alfred Rowse, “they lived in a male world, without women, a world of camps and marching, rallies and sports. They had their own relaxations, and the Munich SA became notorious on account of them” (Rowse:214).⁶⁷ The similarity of the SA to Friedlander’s and Brand’s dream of Hellenic revival is not coincidental. In addition to being a founder of the Nazi Party, Ernst Roehm was a leading member of the Society for Human Rights, an offshoot of the Community of the Elite (J. Katz:632).

The relaxations to which Rowse refers in the above quote were, of course, the homosexual activities (many of them pederastic) for which the SA and the CE were both famous. Hohne writes,

[Roehm] used the SA for ends other than the purely political. SA contact men kept their Chief of Staff supplied with suitable partners, and at the first sign of infidelity on the part of a Roehm favorite, he would be bludgeoned down by one of the SA mobile squads. The head pimp was a shop assistant named Peter Granninger, who had been one of Roehm’s partners...and was now given cover in the SA Intelligence Section. For a monthly salary of 200 marks he kept Roehm supplied with new friends, his main hunting ground being Geisela High School Munich; from this school he recruited no fewer than eleven boys, whom he first tried out and then took to Roehm (Hohne:82).

Although the original SA chapter in Munich was the most notorious, other SA chapters were also centers of homosexual activity. In *Political Violence and the Rise of Nazism*, Richard Bessel notes that the Silesian division of the SA was a hotbed of perversion from 1931 onward (Bessel:61).⁶⁸

Roehm and his closest SA associates were among the minority of Nazi homosexuals who did not take wives. Whether for convention, for procreation, or simply for covering up their sexual proclivities, most of the Nazi homosexuals had married. Some, like Reinhard Heydrich and Baldur von Schirach, married only after being involved in homosexual scandals, but often these men, who so hated femininity, maintained a facade of heterosexual respectability throughout their lives. As Lothar Machtan notes, “That Hitler...encouraged many of them to marry should not be surprising: every conspiracy requires camouflage” (Machtan:24). These were empty marriages, however, epitomized by one wife’s comment: “The only part of my husband I’m familiar with is his back” (Theweleit:3).

As we have seen, then, the SA was in many respects a creation of Germany’s homosexual movement, just as the Nazi Party was in many ways a creation of the SA. Before we take a closer look at the formation and early years of the Nazi Party, we must examine two other very important movements which contributed to Nazism. These are the occult Theosophical-Ariosophical movement, and the intellectual movement which created the National Socialist philosophy. Both of these movements, which are integral to our understanding of the Nazi Party and its actions, were also heavily influenced by homosexuals.

End of Chapter One

Forthcoming Chapters in PDF Format:

2. Homo-Occultism
3. The Homosexual Roots of Fascism
4. The Founding and Early Years of the Nazi Party
5. The Persecution of Homosexuals
6. Homosexuality in the Concentration Camps
7. The Nazi Hatred of Judeo-Christian Morality
8. Homo-Fascism After Hitler
9. The Homosexualization of America
- 10 Closing Thoughts

ABOUT OUR DOCUMENTATION

Since the late 1960s when it first came to power as a guiding force of American culture and politics, the homosexual movement has worked relentlessly to suppress all information about the role of homosexuality in the Nazi Party. Today, with American academia and popular culture in the iron grip of “political correctness” virtually the only domestic sources of information about this topic are books published before 1970, with the exception of re-publications of impossible-to-suppress classics like William Shirer’s *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*. The majority of our citations are to these works, which are fortunately the strongest and most trustworthy sources of all since they are closest in time to the actual events of Nazi and pre-Nazi history. Some sources, such as Konrad Heiden and Otto Strasser were actual contemporaries of and co-revolutionists with Adolf Hitler. Others like Jewish writer Samuel Igra studied and chronicled the rise of the Nazi movement from within Germany itself before fleeing to safety in 1939.

A category of American books and other literature which is an exception to the rule is that of “gay” publications written by and for the homosexual community. Predictably, these publications typically skew the facts to the best political advantage of the “gay” movement, omitting those facts most damaging to their cause, and interpreting the rest in a way that casts homosexuals as exclusively victims of the Nazi regime. Frank Rector’s *The Nazi Extermination of Homosexuals* and Richard Plant’s *The Pink Triangle* are two of these.

A few “gay” writers with more scholarly inclinations, such as James Steakley in *The Homosexual Emancipation Movement in Germany* and Günter Grau and Claudia Schoppman, editors of *The Hidden Holocaust?: Gay and Lesbian Persecution in Germany 1933-45* tell more of the truth but from a decidedly pro-“gay” perspective.

A very few “gay” sources such as Harry Oosterhuis and Hubert Kennedy (*Homosexuality and Male Bonding in Pre-Nazi Germany*) are purely academic works with apparent disregard for the political implications of the shocking facts they document.

All three of these types of “gay” sources, while varying in their trustworthiness (relative to the underlying political sensibilities), nevertheless all have one thing in common: they disclose individual facts about homosexual Nazis.

Each of these facts stands alone as a trustworthy piece of evidence. Indeed, in the law of evidence used by courtroom judges, facts such as these are called “admissions against interest” and for that reason are considered among the most trustworthy of all evidence. So when a man like professor James Steakley, whose career reflects a deep devotion to the cause of “gay rights,” writes of a “truly striking affinity between [Adolf Hitler’s] views on homosexuality and those of [pederasts] Friedlander and [Hans] Bluher” the weight of this evidence is enormous because it is an admission of fact that runs counter to the political interests of the “gay” movement (which wants very much to discredit any suggestion that Hitler was “gay” or even pro-“gay.”)

An admission against interest is considered trustworthy even if other aspects of the person’s work reflect a biased perspective consistent with his or her self-interest. This holds true even if the fact is admitted in a context which attempts to explain it away. The admitted fact stands on its own.

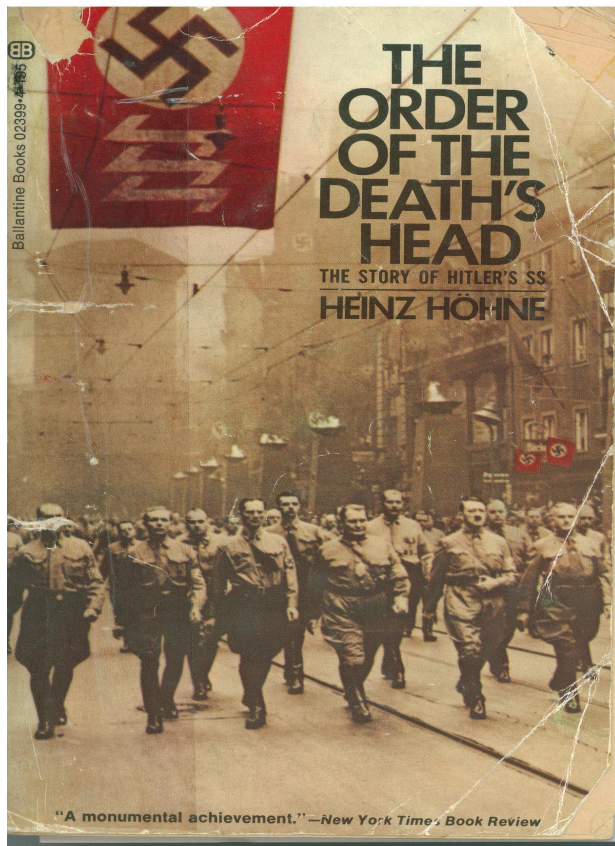
Another category of sources we have used are foreign works, primarily from Germany, where mainstream scholars are evidently still free to publish books that would cause their American counterparts to be drummed out of academia. Among these are the very important *Hidden Hitler* by German historian Lothar Machtan and *The Order of the Death’s Head* by the

eminent journalist Heintz Hohne. While the Machtan book is recent, Hohne's book was published long-enough ago that it could still be lauded as "A Monumental Achievement" by *The New York Times Book Review*. No chance of that today, or for quite a number of yesterdays. Such is the power of the "gay" movement.

What follows is a bibliography of the sources used in this chapter, presented in the form of "endnotes". We have flagged the first appearance in the text of each source with an endnote that gives its bibliographical listing. Select items in the bibliography are highlighted to emphasize their reliability. The fact that an item is not highlighted is not a statement that it is less reliable. Indeed, many of the items not highlighted in this chapter are highlighted in later chapters where the facts they cite are most relevant to the theme of the chapter. While not every source in the book will be highlighted, our selections have been chosen to give support to precisely the facts and assertions that are the most controversial.

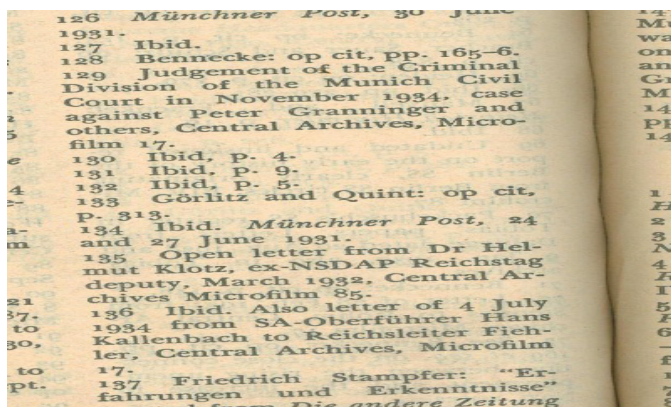
Importantly, these highlighted sources show just how far from the truth the historical revisionists have strayed in their (largely successful) attempt to paint homosexuals as exclusively victims of the Nazis.

¹ Hohne, Heinz. *The Order of the Death's Head: The Story of Hitler's SS*. Ballantine Books, 1971.



held their political meetings...in a "gay" bar....one of several frequented by the early Nazis.

Where did Hohne get his information? The official records of the Munich Criminal Court, Nov 1934, and the *Munich Post* newspaper which originally reported the story in 1931.



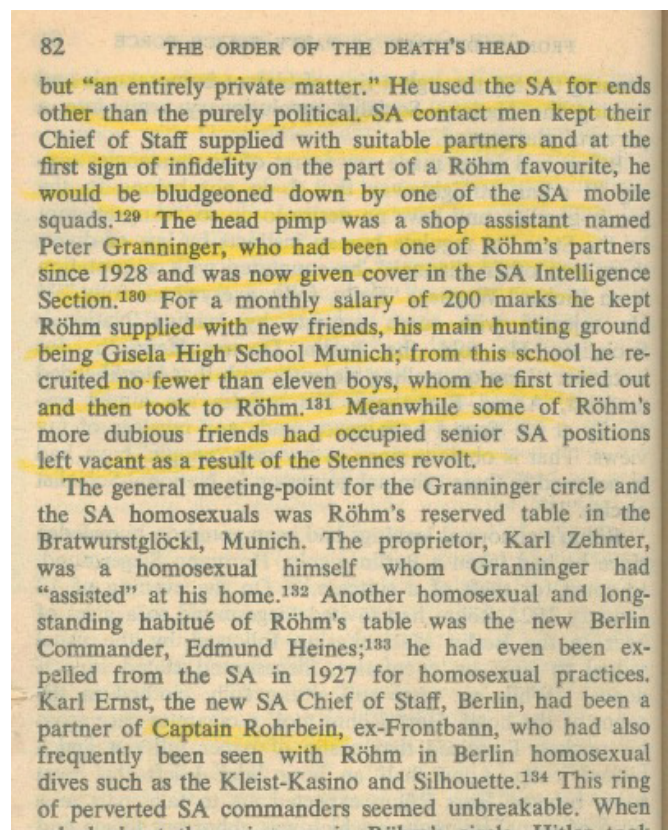
Did the Nazi Party really meet in a "gay" bar? What an outrageous assertion.

Where did we get this information? From Heinz Hohne's *The Order of the Death's Head*, called "A Monumental Achievement" by *The New York Times Book Review*.

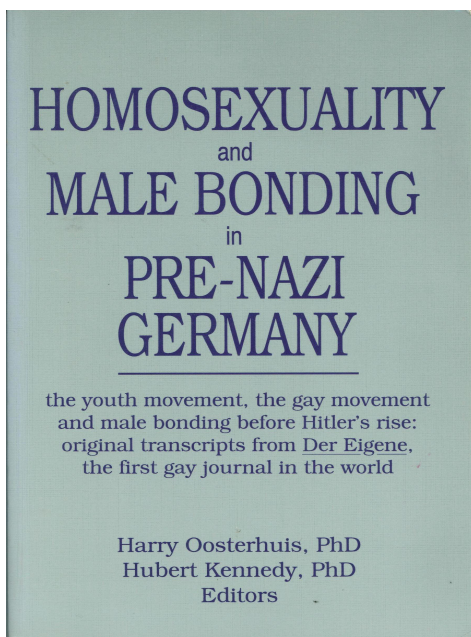
Hohne, who died in 2010, was a highly respected historian and a long-time journalist and editor for the German weekly newsmagazine *Der Spiegel*. His book was originally published in German in 1966, translated into English in 1969, and published in the U.S. in 1971.

The passage below is about Ernst Roehm, head of the Sturmabteilung ("Storm Troopers" or SA) also known as the Brownshirts.

The Brownshirts recruited teen boys into homosexuality from a local high school. They



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- ³ Rector, Frank. The Nazi Extermination of Homosexuals. New York, Stein and Day, 1981.
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- ¹³ Oosterhuis, Harry, and Kennedy, Hubert (eds.). Homosexuality and Male Bonding in Pre-Nazi Germany: the youth movement, the gay movement and male bonding before Hitler's rise: original transcripts from Der Eigene, the first gay journal in the world. New York, Harrington Park Press, 1991.



Are Oosterhuis and Kennedy right wing "revisionists" spreading hate against homosexuals? No, they are "gay" scholars documenting the true history of their own movement.

strict party morality and — if only the least trace of erotic inclinations and sexual acts are established, which his party morality publicly condemns — to relentlessly accuse him personally, as the representative of that party morality, of political hypocrisy and to expose him as an insolent swindler of the people! For he is then enjoying the joys of life that he wants to withhold from the people.

That is also our view in the matter of the homosexual Captain Röhm, the chief of general staff of the Hitler troops, and in the matter of many other homosexuals who, as leaders or subordinates, have been sworn to the program of the National Socialist Party.

When the National Socialist Party openly fights the homosexual movement and when it hands out the slogan, as in fact was done in the *Völkischer Beobachter*¹ on the vilification of the highly deserving teacher of criminal law Professor Dr. Kahl — that they would drive out of Germany or hang on the gallows all homosexuals and all backers of the repeal of §175 as soon as they had come to power — then this party, which so gladly declares every homosexual activity to be filthy, should not wonder if on the occasion of the Röhm case one states without any finicalness how strongly homosexual intercourse is spread precisely in their own ranks.

Men such as Captain Röhm, whose personal interest in the fight that we are leading for the repeal of §175 was probably first publicly stated in the *Münchener Post*, are, to our knowledge, no rarity at all in the National Socialist Party.² It rather teems there with homosexuals of all kinds. And the joy of man in man, which has been slandered in their papers so often as an oriental vice although the Edda frankly extols it as the highest virtue of the Teutons, blossoms around their campfires and is cultivated and fostered by them in a way done in no other male union that is reared on party politics.

The threatened hanging on the gallows, with which they allege they want to exterminate homosexuals, is therefore only a horrible gesture that is supposed to make stupid people believe that the Hitler people, in the matter of male-to-male inclination, are all as innocent as pigeons and pure as angels, just like the pious members of the Christian Society of the Virgin.

In truth, however, no one thinks even in a dream of seriously presenting

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Harry Oosterhuis, PhD, is Lecturer in Gay Studies in the Philosophical Faculty of the Catholic University at Nijmegen, The Netherlands. He has written articles on a variety of topics related to homosexuality and on individuals such as Rousseau, Foucault, Otto Weininger, and Thomas and Klaus Mann.

Hubert Kennedy, PhD, is Adjunct Professor of Human Sexuality Studies and Research Associate for CERES, at San Francisco State University. Most of Dr. Kennedy's research has been divided between the history of mathematics and the history of the gay movement, and he has published in several fields and in several languages. Dr. Kennedy has written biographies of Peano and German gay liberation pioneer Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, and translated the gay novels of John Henry Mackay.

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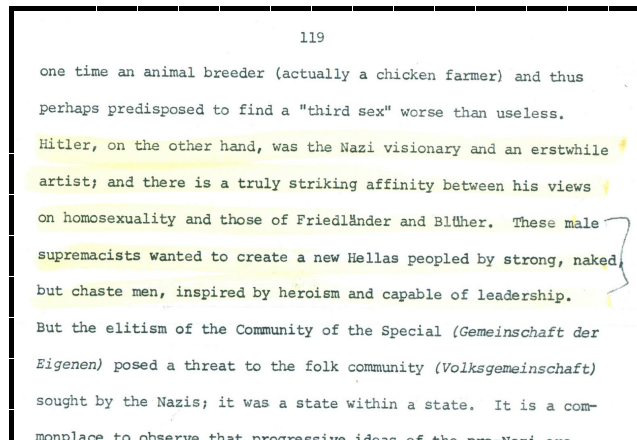
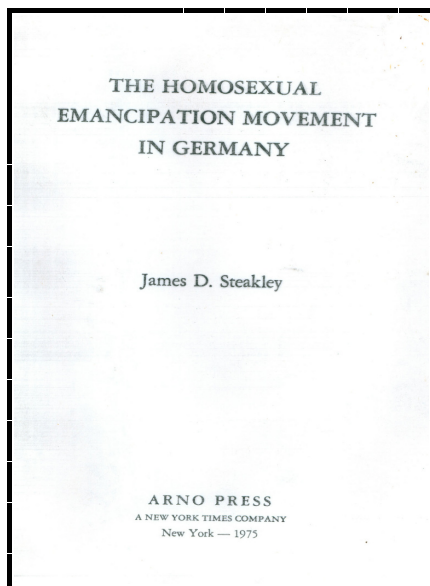
WHO IS JAMES STEAKLEY?

James Steakley is a homosexualist scholar whose "research focuses on 20th-century German, Dutch, and Scandinavian gay history. He has served on the editorial boards of ...*Journal of the History of Sexuality*, and *Journal of Homosexuality* in addition to chairing the Division of Lesbian and Gay Studies of the Modern Language Association and the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues." See http://german.lss.wisc.edu/new_web/?q=node/45.

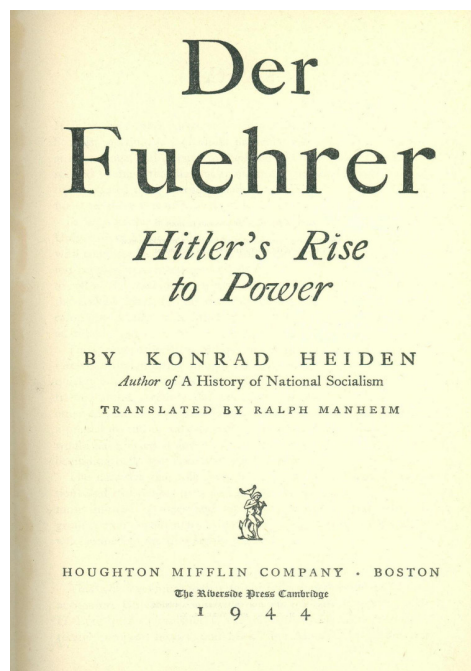
We suspect (without proof) that Steakley is behind the paragraph-by-paragraph attack on *The Pink Swastika* 1st Edition published under the title *The Annotated Pink Swastika* (1996-97) at <http://www.qrd.org/qrd/religion/anti/annotated.pink.swastika> whose contact is algeier@omnifest.uwm.edu at UW Madison. While *The Annotated Pink Swastika* is predictably biased and misleading, it did identify a few legitimate factual errors in the 1st Edition of *The Pink Swastika* which we corrected in the 3rd Edition.

Our citations to Steakley fall into the category of "admissions against interest," and are especially valuable because of his frank discussion of pederasty as a central aspect of "gay" culture throughout his writings, which incidentally is also very common in *The Journal of Homosexuality*.

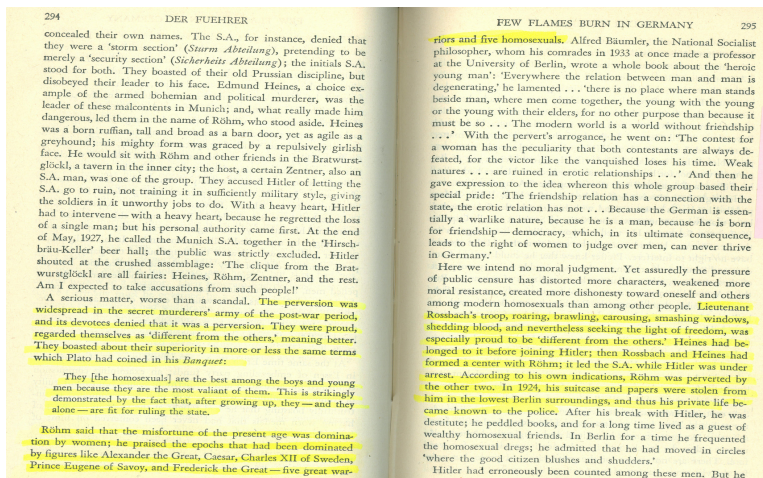
Interestingly, a 1996 speech by one of us (Lively) at a church in Madison, Wisconsin triggered an incident reminiscent of the Nazi Brownshirts when 400 profanity-screaming homosexual activists invaded the church and delayed the lecture for over an hour. After order was finally restored in the church proper, the "gay" militants surrounded the outside of the church and banged rhythmically on the outer walls with rocks and trash can lids, chanting "Crush the Christians. Bring back the lions." (We do not attribute these actions to Mr. Steakley.)



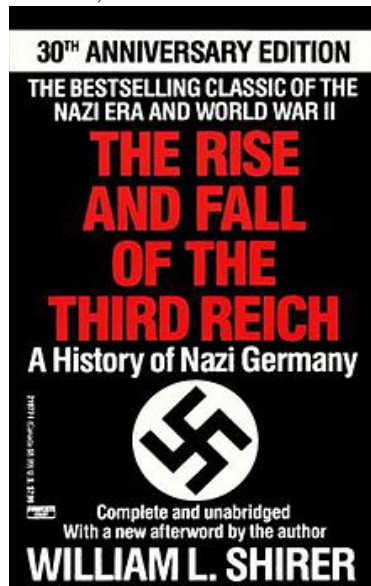
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Konrad Heiden (7 August 1901 – 18 June 1966) was a Munich-born journalist and historian who worked for newspapers in Berlin and Frankfurt before fleeing Germany in 1933. He became an early critic of the Nazi Party after attending one of its meetings in 1920.



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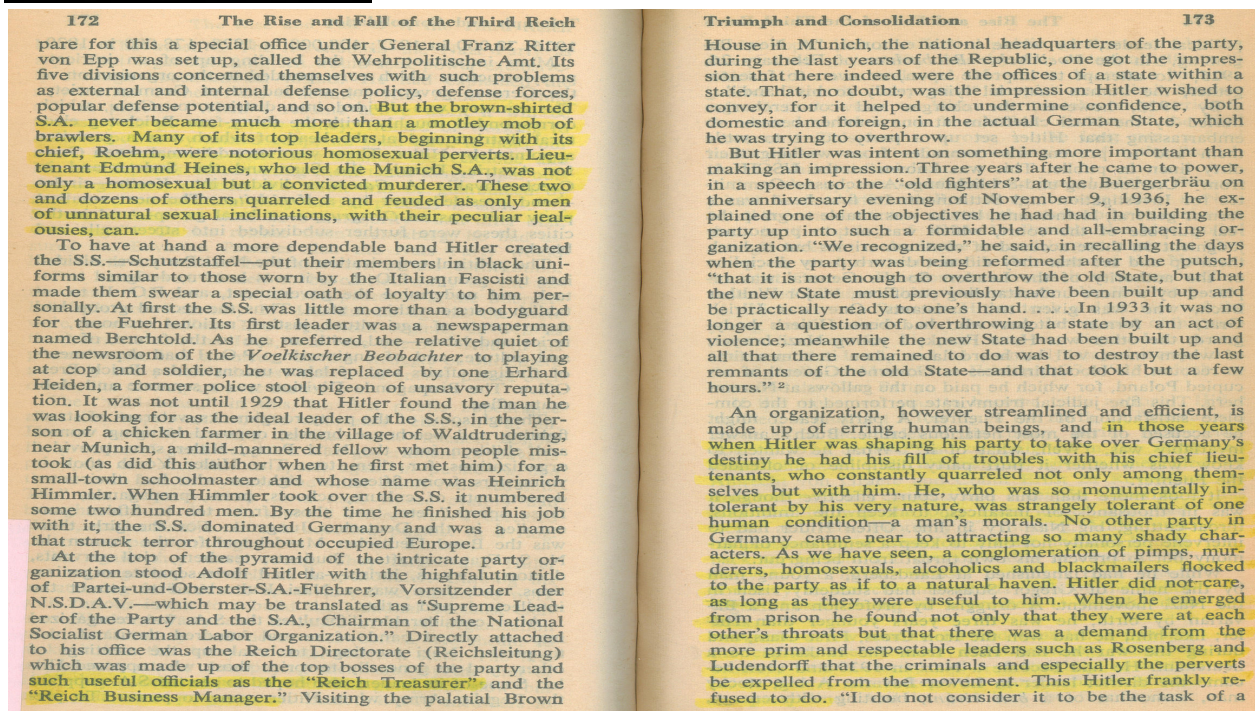


William Shirer (1904-1993)
"WWII's Unimpeachable Witness"

"William Shirer told us what had really gone on in the Nazi's own words," wrote columnist Tom Blackburn in the *Palm Beach Post*, under the headline "WWII's Unimpeachable Witness." ...

With the legendary Edward R. Murrow, Shirer pioneered CBS radio coverage of events in Europe, beginning in 1937. Their live broadcasts of the sounds, the speeches, and the eye-witness accounts of the war changed American public opinion. Shirer returned to New York in late 1940, smuggling his diaries out of Germany in a stack of old radio scripts...

At his death, *The Times of London* wrote, "William Shirer belongs to that select group of journalists who successfully made the transition from the recording of news to the writing of history." *The New York Times* noted, "Mr. Shirer personified the hard-boiled Chicago style of journalism in the 1920s and '30s. But he was also a scholar fluent in German, French, and Italian." *Coe College Obituary*



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