

The German press that takes an active interest in all the cultural events of life approaches all questions affecting books with special sympathy. Both, the press and the book, are united, to a great extent, in aim, fate, and efficiency. The men of the press are in many cases the pioneers of the book, and vice versa, the men of the book-publishing sphere have become the pioneers of the press. I herewith salute, on behalf of the German press, the members of the 12th International Publishers' Congress, especially the guests from foreign countries, and am glad to state with satisfaction and pleasure that the various mutual and reciprocal relations between press and book in Germany have been strengthened. I am sure that these days in Leipzig and Berlin that are devoted to "the book" will also maintain for the future the close connection of the publishing trade with the press.

Max Amann

President of the Reichspressekammer
and Reichsleiter of the NSDAP.

A Welcome!

The word is the mediator of thought in the multifariousness of human speech. A vocation that claims to be such a mediator must accomplish one of the most important and responsible tasks in human society. What a people thinks and writes goes through the hands of the publisher, who, if he is the right one, is in a position to distinguish genuine gold from talmi-gold, and who can appreciate the right and wrong in the spirit of the age. The publisher is indeed in a position to influence the soul of a people, call forth and further new ideas, or hamper and poison, or even stifle them.

The compass of a publisher's work and task does not only reflect the spiritual life of his own people, but also that of others, out of whose literatures he selects the good and suitable for publication in his own country, since such books are a mental bridge from one people to another; they should offer the right material for forming a true and faithful picture of one another. That is why a publisher's individual value and character are of so much importance. He must have more than taste and technical discernment; he should possess a clear and firm sense of responsibility towards his own people and the world.

Built upon such a steady and unshakable basis the International Publishers' Congress is of particular prominence. May complete success be the result of the practical work in the long programme. The flags of nearly every civilized country are hoisted in the Booksellers' House. We salute our guests, and heartily wish that all of them, from far and near, who join the 12th Congress, may fully enjoy their stay at the book town Leipzig, and in the German capital. I sincerely hope that this meeting may enhance old, and lead to new friendships. May the spirit of these days be an honest endeavour for cordial and mutual understanding within the sound compass of good fellowship and harmony.

Karl Baur

President of the Congress